



Houston Center for Quality of Care & Utilization Studies



Annual Report for FY 2004

Houston Center for Quality of Care & Utilization Studies

Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center
2002 Holcombe Boulevard (152), Houston, Texas 77030
Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH, Director

2004 Annual Report

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1 Executive Summary

**Annual Report for FY2004
(October 1, 2003 – September 30, 2004)
Houston Center for Quality of Care and Utilization Studies
Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center
2002 Holcombe Blvd (152)
Houston, Texas 77030**

Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH, Director

The Houston Center for Quality of Care and Utilization Studies continues to meet the challenges posed by our nation's health care system by developing new, insightful research proposals designed to improve quality, access, utilization, and costs. Fiscal year 2004 was a period marked by continuing evolution in the leadership development and operational focus of our Center. Our innovative associate director development model continues with particular emphasis now in 3 main areas of research:

1. Translation/Implementation Research
2. Health Disparities
3. Chronic Care Models/Systems of Care

As we have worked to build critical mass in these areas, we realize that many of our projects have crossover connection to these 3 research themes. In 2004, the associate directors worked diligently to integrate their efforts to grow our research program with special emphasis in these areas. Advancing on our vision to increase researcher productivity, quality, and scientific impact, the associate directors have added their leadership to the improvement of our scientific and business processes that enable our continued success. At the core of our unit's advancement is the charge we put to each research team leader:

1. Pursue a personal research agenda
2. Obtain external funding in the pursuit of that agenda
3. Publish research results in scientific journals
4. Serve in leadership/mentorship roles
5. Progress up the academic ladder at Baylor College of Medicine (our primary academic affiliate)

Our work in 2004 and beyond remains with developing and executing the support systems and processes that facilitate the accomplishment of these 5 areas. We remain steadfast in our objective to produce research results that have near and long-term positive impact on our constituents: patients, practitioners, and policy-makers.

Under the leadership of Carol M. Ashton MD, MPH, the Center of Excellence continues to expand in size and scope. Our research team leader group continues to mature and diversify. We maintain a keen focus on improving the group's leadership, research and resource management skills.

The Center maintains its separate residence at 2450 Holcombe in the Texas Medical Center, just off the footprint campus of the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC). The MEDVAMC, and consequently the Center, remains a member institute of the Texas Medical Center and a primary health care provider for more than 70,000 veterans in the Houston metropolitan area and around the country.

During FY04, the HCQCUS occupied an additional 10,000 new contiguous square feet in the Nabisco Building to meet our expansion needs. Throughout the year, this space was appropriately built-out to house the Measurement Excellence and Training Resource Information Center (METRIC), a VA HSR&D Resource Center, and the staff for some of our larger projects. We remain hopeful that we can acquire even more square footage in the next 2 years based on our projected growth in personnel and projects.

Center Vision

By 2010, the HCQCUS is an accredited research institution recognized as the leader in producing scientific output AND national leaders that directly impact national healthcare policy & delivery

Center Mission

The Center impacts health and health care by conducting & translating outstanding research and developing influential leaders in health outcomes, quality, access, utilization & cost.

Overview of FY04

The Center's accomplishments during FY04 include:

HCQCUS Director, Carol Ashton, received the 2004 VA Under Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Health Services Research, the VA's highest honor bestowed in the area of health services research.

- In total, the Center was involved in 78 funded research projects and programs during this reporting period. Funding was initiated in FY03 for 23 new projects and programs, funding was completed for 14, but 6 of the projects are still in the analysis or final report preparation stage.
- For fiscal year 2004, Center investigators published 84 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals, 2 books, 7 book chapters, and 2 technical reports. Also, there were 65 presentations given and abstracts presented by Center investigators at regional, national and international conferences during the reporting period.
- The group formerly known as the Statistical Analysis and Data Processing unit was reorganized into the Design and Analysis Section (DAS). A new vision and mission were developed for DAS, and the section is being built into a pre-eminent group of methodologists in health services research.
- Three new research team leaders and 6 post-doctoral fellows were hired.
- As documented in our strategic plan, specific focus was directed toward the *impact* on VA and non-VA health care systems. For example, Dr. Carol Ashton's important article published in the October 23 *New England Journal of Medicine* describes the impact of quality of care on veterans of VA's shift from a hospital-based system to one focused on primary and outpatient care.
- HCQCUS has overseen the maturation of the HSR&D-funded Measurement Excellence and Training Resource Information Center, a full-fledged VA HSR&D Resource Center. Its mission is to improve overall quality of measurement in the HSR&D community of scientists. The new METRIC director was recruited, and David Kuykendall, PhD, MBA, was selected to lead this resource center.
- Our Research Excellence Initiative (REI) was refined and continued. This continuous improvement initiative has redefined our approach to developing our scientists and building the capacity of this Center. We have the standards that qualitatively define &

measure the outcomes from this Center and serve as the model of excellence to all HSR&D units.

Organization and Infrastructure

During FY2004, the Center's infrastructure has matured to meet the diverse and complex needs of the investigators and the institutions we serve. As we've grown, the need to increase and broaden responsibilities to functional area experts within the administration has proven beneficial in gaining productivity, innovation, and operational efficiency. Also driving our infrastructure maturation are the operational goals we have to expand translation/dissemination, examine & improve organizational performance, expand/diversify our funding sources, and improve individual leadership skills.

Dr. Carol Ashton leads the Center both as the HCQCUS Director and as the Chief of the Health Services Research Section in the Baylor College of Medicine Department of Medicine. In January of 2003, the Center developed a multiple-associate-director model mentioned in the first paragraph. (In 2004, one of the four associate directors resigned to put greater emphasis on her research agenda.) This multiple AD model remains our innovative way to develop leaders that can serve in succession roles created within the VA research structure and potentially at other academic/research institutions as needs arise. As importantly, these directors maintain their charge of building & leading a research agenda/direction that supports the broader HCQCUS mission. The director, the Associate Directors, and the Chief Operating Officer make up our Center's Executive team. In addition, the Team Leader Advisory Council (TLAC) as a representative body for Team Leaders, serves the unit by developing operational paradigms aimed at the advancement of our scientific efforts, directing the administrative priorities, and improving grant productivity. In FY04, TLAC placed emphasis on improving investigator productivity through skills development and resource acquisition/management.

The Center's operations/administration section remains strong as an effective support body charged with meeting the Center's operational day-to-day needs. This group continues to improve in their innovation, responsiveness, information accuracy, and data management. W. Keith Neeley, MBA continues as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Angelita Vinluan, CPA, as the unit's Chief Financial Officer (CFO). As challenging economic times continue in our Nation, the Center leaders maintain the search for innovative ways to achieve sustainable, interdependent financial growth and capacity expansion within the Center.

The COO provides administrative and strategic oversight of the following internal functional areas led by the management team:

- Alex Chau, BS, Chief Information Officer
- Dianna Densmore, MPH, Chief of Project Staff
- Theresa Foss, BA, Human Resources Manager
- Nancy Petersen, PhD, Chief of Design & Analysis Section
- Matt Price, MS, Chief Communications Officer
- Shannon Underwood, BA, Chief of Grants Management & Compliance
- Angelita Vinluan, CPA, Chief Financial Officer

The organization's structure enables the research team leaders to direct their teams in the execution of research projects and the management team to lead the support efforts in the areas of administration, finance, strategic planning, and tactical execution. Some of the key accomplishments of our administration team include:

1. Systems and Process Development:

- a. Development and implementation of our Performance Management Program that emphasizes direct investigator involvement in the expectations setting, development, and performance assessment of individuals deployed on project teams. This system provides for formal direct, qualitative input from principal investigators on the performance of their project team. This program ties into our training & development program as well as the awards and recognition process.
- b. Improvement of & unilateral application of our Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) database that facilitates effective information flow and supports our financial and HR activities. This internal Access-based system is known as "R2D2".
- c. Development of a formal budget and budgeting process that incorporates the financial information from our VA and BCM revenue and expense streams.
- d. Internal Compliance Audit process that enables us to meet sponsor compliance requirements while enhancing the integrity of our research projects.
- e. Refinement of our Research Excellence Initiative database to assess individual and organizational performance. This access-based system allows for the maintenance of performance information and associated reports to continuous analysis.
- f. Application of policies and procedures for dissemination efforts continues to improve the quality, frequency, and breadth of our publication efforts.
- g. Rollout and application of our policy & procedure document that serves as the foundation for our operating standards.

2. Culture Shifting:

- a. De-centralizing the ownership and responsibility for support operations is enhancing leadership skills while sustaining synergy among responsible functional area leaders.
- b. Consistent and pointed progress review meetings coupled with the performance management systems are helping maintain our strategic and tactical focus.
- c. Continued use of our internal Employee Satisfaction Survey (ESS). This process enables us to compare progress and shortfalls in specific areas and provides us with longitudinal data so that we can target our continuous improvement efforts. The results of these surveys have provided increased momentum on our operations objectives and in some cases, stimulated a modification of our operating model based on customer feedback.

As the expertise and teamwork of our group increases over the coming years, we remain certain that efficiency and operational innovation will continue. Our potential for growth and capacity is limitless at this point.

Investigators

For FY04, the Center ended the year with 29 main research team leaders and 11 primarily affiliate investigators. Among our main group, 12 are from non-clinical disciplines and 17 are from primarily clinical backgrounds. Center investigators have their primary academic appointments at Baylor College of Medicine, in the Department of Medicine, Section of Health Services Research. The Center maintains close ties with the University of Texas School of Public Health, Texas Southern University, Prairie View A&M University, Texas A&M, and various other affiliated institutions.

The Center is extremely proud of its Career Development Awardees. Among the highlights for FY04 are:

- Dr. Jeff Cully, whose VA Associate investigator award started in FY 2004.
- Drs. Rebecca Beyth, Hashem El-Serag, and Howard Gordon supported by VA Advanced Career Development Awards.
- Drs. Paul Haidet, Lynn Snow, and Ursula Braun, supported by VA HSR&D Career Development Awards.
- Drs. Anita Deswal and Tracie Collins, supported by VA Cooperative Studies Clinical Research Career Development Awards.
- Drs. Michael Johnson and Jessica Davila, supported by VA HSR&D MREP Awards.
- Dr. Thomas Giordano, supported by an NIH Career Award.

We are proud of our mix of research team leaders in the organization. The breadth of expertise and interest provides an appropriate balance in our efforts to seek and develop appropriate projects within the Center. Of particular note in FY04 was the recruitment of the new METRIC Center Director, David Kuykendall, who works as a Center affiliate investigator.

Computer Information Systems

The Center's Computing Network enables the staff to access all of our servers. Our connection to the MEDVAMC LAN facilitates our ready access to other VA information systems (such as the Austin Automation Center). From the hardware perspective, our primary Unix system has 4 Itanium processors with 1500GB of disk storage. Another Unix server on the network hosts an *Intranet* web site for distribution of certain types of information among Center staff. The system also includes four Intel-based Windows servers that provide file sharing, network printing, SQL database, and application sharing. These servers provide disk storage for sharing documents, applications, and administrative database information among Center staff. All investigators have desktop PCs and printers to facilitate their individual research efforts. Laptop computers are also available for use while traveling.

HSRCC systems have been configured for high reliability and maintainability to guard against data loss. Parallel components and processors enable the system to continue operations in the event of major component failures. HSRCC also has a tape library for automated daily backup of the HP system and the Windows servers. Backup tapes are stored at remote location as part of our disaster recovery procedures. In FY04, HSRCC purchased additional capacity infrastructure to accommodate the heavier load created by the increase in research projects, investigators, and support staff. The enlarged infrastructure includes HP virtual disk array for additional disk storage and additional CPUs to meet the rising demands on processors. HSRCC systems will continue to adapt as the needs of the research staff grows.

Research Dissemination

For fiscal year 2004, Center investigators published 84 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals, 2 books, 7 book chapters, and 2 technical reports. Further, there were 65 presentations given or abstracts presented by Center investigators at regional, national and international conferences during the reporting period. A more detailed discussion our products, dissemination efforts, and impact is provided at section 5 of this report.

Education and Training

The Center's Education and Training activities are led by Dr. A. Lynn Snow, PhD, Assistant Director for Education Programs. The centerpiece of our Center's training activity is its VA

funded post-doctoral fellowship program for non-clinician PhDs. Additionally, the mission of the Section includes: clinical fellows training, pre-doctoral training, emphasis on training of and collaboration with minority students and faculty, and the Center's mentoring program. You can find more detail on our training efforts in Section 7 of this report

Leadership Roles

The investigators at the HCQCUS remain prominent leaders on national research committees, editorial review boards, and within academic associations. Many of the senior investigators are leaders in their respective fields of expertise while providing substantive input to national Research organizations. Please find more detail on Houston Center's leaders and leadership activities in Section 6 of this report.

Future Plans

FY2004 represented a new beginning of sorts for the Center as it marked the first year of our 5-year funding renewal cycle. In yet an even more important way, this was a new beginning in our emphasis on *applying* the new knowledge we acquire through our research efforts. The central themes for the coming years include:

1. Improving project planning and execution.
2. Organizational Excellence – Performance analysis and improvement.
3. Targeted development of personnel and processes.

As we look ahead, our investigators must become most skilled at project management so that the outcomes/products can reach our constituents more consistently and timely. Our leaders must remain more diligent in their work to plan then execute their projects on time and on budget. In 2005, we will provide focused training so that our investigators become masters at project planning and execution. We will further refine and build our support systems to facilitate successful project management. Building investigator competencies in the areas of leadership, technology, and research outcomes implementation, our unit will demonstrate continuous improvement in the quality and quantity of our products.

While only "scratching the surface" on development of a comprehensive organizational performance assessment model in 2004, in 2005 we will earnestly employ Eisenberg's "Impact Factor" model (Eisenberg 2001: Eisenberg, JM; *"Putting Research to Work: Reporting and Enhancing the Impact of Health Services Research"*), as a tool to examine and grade our performance over time. We look forward to our NCQA accreditation in 2005 and using this event as a springboard to begin analyzing the excellence of our organization using Baldrige/Robert W. Carey award criteria. By having our evaluation system in place and educating our line leaders on the aspects of organizational excellence, we will use objective and comparative analysis to drive constructive change towards incremental, continuous operations improvement.

The final major theme for our Center remains at development. Our charge remains the same: ...to develop great research leaders. Key to achieving our objectives is the continuous development of our associate directors. Now in place for a little less than 2 years, Drs. Beyth, Ford, and Kunik continue to expand their leadership influence and executive oversight of the Center while continuing to build on their personal research agenda and their respective focus areas; translation, health disparities, and chronic care model systems of care. Our leadership development focus will create scientists who strongly influence their fields by producing scientific findings that leads to results that directly impact the practitioner, patient, or policy maker. Our mentoring program emphasizes productivity and continuous improvement towards independent project funding while promoting the value of team effort in achievement.

A second important facet related to development that will receive renewed emphasis is the quality of our project design and analysis. Over the past years, we have identified an opportunity area in the breadth and depth of our Design and Analysis Section. In 2005, we will continue to implement a supportive structure within our DAS that has five major emphasis areas:

1. Recruitment of new methodologists and external liaison and partnering (DAS-specific).
2. Professional development and mentoring of DAS faculty and staff.
3. Project assignment and improved time estimation for project assignments.
4. Performance management.
5. Methodology at the forefront of health services research.

With this renewed emphasis, we will achieve excellence in methodological, design, and analytical support of our projects. We will improve our success rate in winning projects from external sponsors directly related to the improved quality of our design and methodological rigor in the pre-submission phase. We will measurably improve the timeliness of project completions and the quality of output from our projects based on accurate and complete analysis and methodological consultation.

Our resolute focus on improving leadership and developing our personnel at all levels coupled with a commitment to improved project management systems will ensure we achieve measurable progress in the coming years. We remain committed to the notion that the core objectives of our 5-year strategic plan represent the roadmap we will use to guide us through the “territory” of healthcare improvement. The next four years stand as our time of definable progress in achieving the six aims for improvement of the Nation’s healthcare system as identified in the IOM *Crossing the Quality Chasm* report.

As we end FY04 and enter into 2005, we look forward to the conduct of and feedback from our External Advisory Committee. We seek their valuable, objective insights as they examine our past performance and our proposals for moving forward. We remain confident that they will help us to identify best tactics that enable achievement of the goals within the 3 future-focused themes: (1) research excellence; (2) organizational excellence; and (3) targeted skill development.

2 Investigators

“The test of a civilization is in the way that it cares for its helpless members.”

↑ Pearl S. Buck

In addition to being a community of scientists, our Center is a community of people who care about each other. We join together in good times and support each other during difficulties. We anticipate the needs of others within our community and we offer each other compassion and encouragement. We are more than an organization. We are a family.

The Houston Center for Quality of Care & Utilization Studies comprises seven functional teams:

- Executive Team
- Research Team Leaders (Core Investigators)
- Management Team
- Design and Analysis Section
- Project Staff Team
- Information Technology Team
- Administrative Support Team

In addition to the seven teams, the Center also includes:

- Post-Doctoral Fellows (Trainees)
- Affiliate Investigators
- Volunteers
- Summer Students

The executive team comprises Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH, director of the Houston Center for Quality of Care and Utilization Studies; Rebecca J. Beyth, MD, MS, associate director for translational research, Marvella E. Ford, PhD, associate director for health disparities research, and Mark E. Kunik, MD, MPH, associate director for chronic care models, and W. Keith Neeley, MBA, Assistant Director for Finance and Administration and Chief Operating Officer. Four of the five executive team members also maintain dual responsibilities as Center investigators.

In addition to serving on the executive team, W. Keith Neeley leads the management team. The management team has responsibility for administrative support, business development, communications and public relations, finance, human resources, recruitment, information technology, and project staff support.

Our scientific investigators and post-doctoral fellows are the foundation and the acclaim of our Center of Excellence. The sections that follow detail their accomplishments.

The current members of the seven teams and the Center's other organizational groups, as of September 30, 2004, are listed below. Please refer to the organizational chart that follows.

Executive Team

Name	Degree	Title	Hire Date
Carol Ashton	MD, MPH	Director, HCQCUS and BCM Section Chief	1990
Rebecca Beyth	MD, MS	Associate Director for Translational Research	1999
Marvella Ford	PhD	Associate Director for Health Disparities Research	2002
Mark Kunik	MD, MPH	Associate Director for Chronic Care Models	1999
W. Keith Neeley	MBA	Assistant Director, Administration and Finance and Chief Operating Officer	2001

Research Team Leaders (Core Investigators)

Name	Degree	Title	Hire Date
Carol Ashton	MD, MPH	Senior Scientist	1990
Neena Abraham	MD, MSc	Senior Scientist	2003
Rebecca Beyth	MD, MS	Senior Scientist	1999
Ursula Braun	MD, MPH	Senior Scientist	2001
Ruth Bush	MD	Senior Scientist	2003
Tracie Collins	MD, MPH	Senior Scientist	1998
Jeff Cully	PhD	Senior Scientist	2003
Jessica Davila	PhD	Senior Scientist	2001
Anita Deswal	MD	Senior Scientist	2000
Hashem El-Serag	MD, MPH	Senior Scientist	1999
Marvella Ford	PhD	Senior Scientist	2002
Howard Gordon	MD	Senior Scientist	1996
Paul Haidet	MD, MPH	Senior Scientist	1998
Michael Johnson	PhD	Senior Scientist	1992
P. Adam Kelly	PhD, MBA	Senior Scientist	2001
Mark Kunik	MD, MPH	Senior Scientist	1999
Maurice Moffett	PhD	Senior Scientist	2003
Robert Morgan	PhD	Senior Scientist	1999
Aanand Naik	MD	Senior Scientist	2004
Laura Petersen	MD, MPH	Senior Scientist	1998
Nancy Petersen	PhD	Senior Scientist	1990
Ken Pietz	PhD	Senior Scientist	1994
A. Lynn Snow	PhD	Senior Scientist; Assistant Director for Education	2000

Julianne Soucek	PhD	Senior Scientist	1993
Pamela Willson	PhD	Senior Scientist	2003
LeChauncy Woodard	MD, MPH	Senior Scientist	2001

Management Team

Name	Degree	Title	Hire Date
W. Keith Neeley	MBA	Assistant Director, Administration and Finance and Chief Operating Officer	2001
Dianna Densmore	MS	Chief of Project Staff	2002
Theresa Foss	BS	HR/Office Manager	2001
Alex Chau	BS	Chief Information Officer	2003
Matt Price	MS	Chief Communications Officer	1995
Shannon Underwood	BA	Chief of Grants Management and Compliance	1993
Angelita Vinluan	BA (CPA)	Chief Financial Officer	2000

Design and Analysis Section

Name	Degree	Title	Hire Date
Jennifer Campbell	MS	Methodologist (demography)	2002
Vanessa Cox	MS	Statistical Analyst	2004
Christine Hartman	PhD	Statistical Analyst	2002
Louise Henderson	MSPH	Statistical Analyst	2003
Michael Johnson	PhD	Methodologist (statistics)	1992
Michael Kallen	PhD, MPH	Methodologist (psychometrics)	2004
Mark Kuebler	MS	Statistical Analyst	1999
Meei Ku-Goto	MS	Statistical Analyst	1993
Harlan Nelson	MS	Statistical Analyst	1998
Nancy Petersen	PhD	Methodologist (statistics)	1990
Ken Pietz	PhD	Methodologist (statistics)	1994
Peter Richardson	PhD	Methodologist (statistics)	1999
Julie Soucek	PhD	Methodologist (statistics)	1993
Raji Sundaravaradan	BS	Statistical Analyst	2002
Diana Urbauer	MS	Statistical Analyst	2001
Annette Walder	MS	Statistical Analyst	2004
Iris Wei	DrPH	Statistical Analyst	1991
Hong-Jen Yu	MS	Statistical Analyst	1992

Project Staff Team

Name	Degree	Title	Hire Date
Abeer Alsarraj	BS	Project Staff	2001
Courtney Barnes	BS	Project Staff	2004
Gloria Berrios	AOS	Project Staff	2004
Matiko Bivins	MA	Project Staff	2003
Angela Blanco		Project Staff	2003
Vanessa Brown	BA	Project Staff	2004
Angela Burgess	BS	Project Staff	2004
Loralee Capistrano	MPH	Project Staff	1999
Tamara Cameron	BS	Project Staff	2004
Karen Carl	MA	Project Staff	2002
Junaia Carter	BS	Project Staff	2001
Angelic Chaison	MA	Project Staff	2004
Vy Dao	MA	Project Staff	2004
Christina Daw	MPH	Project Staff	2003
Coreen Domingo	MPH	EXCEED Program Coordinator	2002
Sharon Eason	MPH	Project Staff	2001
Lauren Elissa	MPH	Project Staff	2002
Donna Espadas	BA	Project Staff	1998
Mary Green		Project Staff	2003
Dolly Ann John	MPH	Project Staff	2001
Jennifer Khan	BA	Project Staff	2003
Alex Kipp		Project Staff	2003
Cynthia Kraus	MA	Project Staff	2004
Laura Krishnan	MPH	Project Staff	2003
Tony Kroll	MS	Project Staff	2003
Patricia Krueger	MS	Project Staff	2002
Debra Liles	BA	Project Staff	2004
Carol Looney	MS	Project Staff	2003
J. Elizabeth Martin		Project Staff	1999
Ellen Matthiesen	BA	Project Staff	1999
Christi Murphy	BA	Project Staff	2003
Chong Pak	MPH	Project Staff	2001
Sonya Patel	MS	Project Staff	2003
Stacey Pennock	BA	Project Staff	2004
Mai Pham	BS	Project Staff	2004
Petra Pilgrim	BA	Project Staff	2003

Aimee Pinales		Project Staff	2002
Yvette Pinales		Project Staff	2000
Derek Prins	MA	Project Staff	2004
Andrea Price	BA	Project Staff	2004
Louise Quijano	MSW	Project Staff	2002
Mike Rahmn		Project Staff	2001
Marsha Richardson	MSW	Project Staff	2001
Elizabeth Roberts	BS	Project Staff	2003
Nikita Robinson	BS	Project Staff	2003
Jennifer Ruiz	MS	Project Staff	2004
Ashley Senior	BS	Project Staff	2004
Ayanna Sidle	BS	Project Staff	2003
Robert Snow	MS	Project Staff	2003
Supicha Sookanan	MPH	Project Staff	2001
Sallye Stapleton	BS	Project Staff	2004
Linda Stelljes	MA	Project Staff	1999
Sam Temple	BA	Project Staff	2004
Tracy Urech	BA	Project Staff	2001
Paula Wagener	BA	Project Staff	2004
Sarah Webb	MA	Project Staff	2004
Heather Wellman	BS	Project Staff	2003
Nancy Wilson	MSW	Project Staff	2002
Yun-Ting Yeh	MBA	Project Staff	2003
Darrell Zeno	MS	Project Staff	2001
Meghan Zimmer	BA	Project Staff	2004

Information Technology Team

Name	Degree	Title	Hire Date
Emmanuel Bautista	BS	IT Staff	2003
Chris Williams	BA	IT Staff	1999

Administrative Support Team

Name	Degree	Title	Hire Date
Tracy Barrera		Executive Assistant to Director	2002
Mathilda Ceaser		Administrative Assistant to Chief Operating Officer and Chief Communications Officer	2003
Barbara Chamberlin		Administrative Assistant to Team Leaders	2000

Angela Davis		Team Leader Support	2002
Aida DeLeon	BBA	Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable	2001
Regina Drake	BS	Administrative Assistant to Team Leaders	2001
Virgie Fowler	BBA	Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable	2002
Tenecia Harrison		Receptionist	2003
Barbara Kimmel	MS	Translation and Dissemination Manager	2002
Tamara Lavin	BS	Recruitment Director	2002
Rhonda O'Donovan		Pre-Award Grant Manager	1997
Rose Peralta		Accounting Assistant	2002
Jennifer Pinder	BA	Executive Assistant	2004
Carol Swartsfager		Executive Assistant to Associate Directors	2003
Jennifer Taylor	BBA	Travel Coordinator and Administrative Assistant	2003

Post-Doctoral Fellows (Trainees)

Name	Degree	Title	Hire Date
David Graham	MD, MS	Post Doc/Fellow	2003
Jennifer Kramer	PhD	Post Doc/Fellow	2003
Jennifer Mayben	MD	Post Doc/Fellow	2004
Kent Roundy	MD	Post Doc/Fellow	2003
Sherri Simpson	MD, BS	Post Doc/Fellow	2004
Cayla Teal	PhD	Post Doc/Fellow	2003

Affiliate Investigators

Name	Degree	Title	
David Berger	MD	Affiliate Investigator	
Baruch Brody	PhD	Affiliate Investigator	
Margaret Byrne	PhD	Affiliate Investigator	
Karon Cook	PhD	Affiliate Investigator	
George Dolson	MD	Affiliate Investigator	
Nancy Dunn	PhD	Affiliate Investigator	
Susan Garber	MA	Affiliate Investigator	
Thomas Giordano	MD	Affiliate Investigator	
Laura Goetzl	MD, MPH	Affiliate Investigator	
David Kuykendall	PhD, MBA	Affiliate Investigator and	

		METRIC Director	
Laurence McCullough	PhD	Affiliate Investigator	
Nora Osemene	PhD	Affiliate Investigator	
Kimberly O'Malley	PhD	Affiliate Investigator	
Debora Paterniti	PhD	Affiliate Investigator	
Yasser Shaib	MD	Affiliate Investigator	
Barbara Sharf	PhD	Affiliate Investigator	
Mindi Stanley	PhD	Affiliate Investigator	
Richard Street	PhD	Affiliate Investigator	
Nelda Wray	MD, MPH	Affiliate Investigator and HCQCUS Director Emeritus	

Volunteers

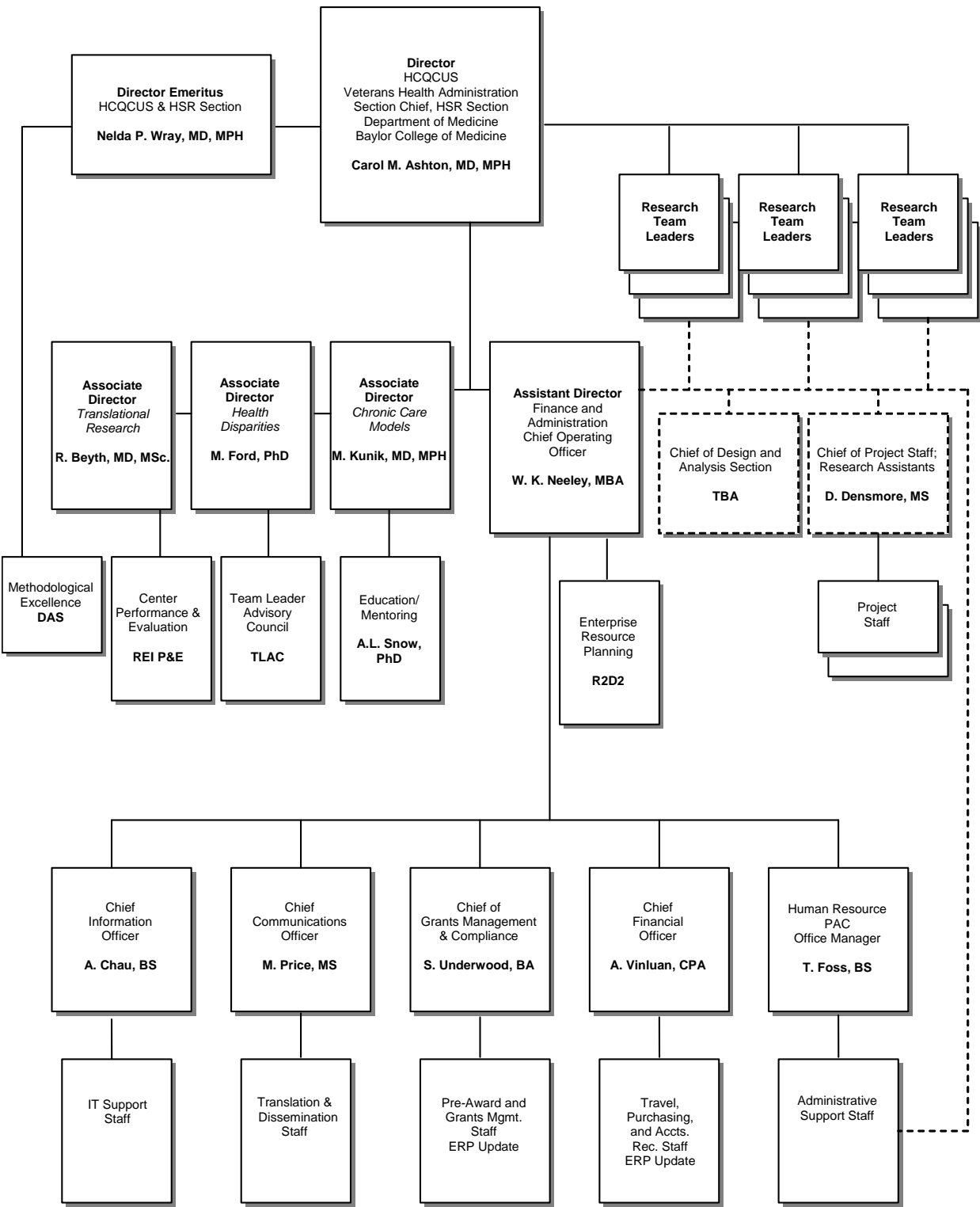
Name		Title	Hire Date
Amany Ahmed		Volunteer	2004
Pierre Azzam		Volunteer	2004
Javier Berrios		Volunteer	2004
Zhannat Nurgalieva		Volunteer	2004
Shital Patel		Volunteer	2004

Summer Students

The Center's summer student program was established to offer young relatives and friends of Center staff an opportunity to improve future employment prospects while encouraging higher education, particularly in health-related fields of study. The 2004 summer student program, lead by Dianna Densmore, chief of project staff, was very successful. Fourteen high school and undergraduate students were employed over the course of the summer and performed a wide variety of tasks, from organizational tasks to data entry to extensive literature searches and reviews. The Center leadership has always been an advocate of fostering an environment where young students can become involved in our successful health services research organization. It is our hope that the small role we play in their development will have an impact on their future career choices.

2.1 Organizational Chart

Houston Center for Quality of Care and Utilization Studies



2.2 Investigators (Table 1)

Houston Center of Excellence Investigators (Core and Affiliate), FY 2004

	Degree(s)	Center Title(s)	Other VA Title(s)	University Title(s)	Year Joined FP	FTE*
Center Director(s)						
Carol M. Ashton	MD, MPH	Director	Staff Physician, General Medicine Section, Houston VA Medical Center Deputy Associate Chief of Staff, for Research and Development, Houston VAMC Chief, General Medicine Section, Houston VA Medical Center	Professor, Department of Medicine and Medical Ethics, Baylor College of Medicine Adjunct Professor, The University of Texas School of Public Health,	1990	0.75
		DRA(s):	Health Services and Systems			
		DRE(s):	Diagnosis and Prognosis; Epidemiology; Quality of Care; Resource Use and Cost			
		INTERESTS:	Databases; Disparities in Treatments Received; Evidence-Based Medicine; Health Care Policy; Health Services Accessibility; Health Services Needs and Demands; Outcome Assessment (Health Care); Physician Practice Patterns; Physician-Patient Relations; Quality Assurance, Health Care - Quality of Health Care			
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* FTEE refers to percentage of time devoted to HSR&D that is paid by the VA						

Houston Center of Excellence Investigators (Core and Affiliate), FY 2004

	Degree(s)	Center Title(s)	Other VA Title(s)	University Title(s)	Year Joined FP	FTE*
Core Investigator(s)						
Neena Abraham	MD, MSc, BA	Physician	Staff Physician	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	2004	0.75
		DRA(s): Chronic Diseases				
		DRE(s): Epidemiology; Treatment				
		INTERESTS: Endoscopy; Gastroenterology				
Rebecca J. Beyth	MD, MS	Physician Associate Director (COE)	Staff Physician	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1999	1
		DRA(s): Aging and Age-Related Changes; Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Epidemiology; Prevention; Quality of Care				
Ursula K. Braun	MD, MPH	Physician	Staff Physician	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	2001	0.75
		DRA(s): Aging and Age-Related Changes; Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Quality of Care; Treatment				
		INTERESTS: Geriatrics				
Ruth L. Bush	MD, AB	Physician	Staff Physician	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	2003	0.25
		DRA(s): Chronic Diseases				
		DRE(s): Treatment				
		INTERESTS: Academic Research; Surgery				
Tracie C. Collins	MD, MPH	Physician-Health Services Researcher	Staff Physician	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1998	0.75
		DRA(s): Chronic Diseases; Special (Underserved, High Risk) Populations				
		DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Epidemiology; Etiology; Quality of Care				
		INTERESTS: Cardiovascular Diseases; Cerebrovascular Disorders; Chronic Disease; Clinical Decision-Making; Health Services Research; Lower Extremity Amputation; Outcome Assessment (Health Care); Patient Acceptance of Health Care				

Houston Center of Excellence Investigators (Core and Affiliate), FY 2004

	Degree(s)	Center Title(s)	Other VA Title(s)	University Title(s)	Year Joined FP	FTE*
Jeffrey Cully	PhD, M Ed, BS	Research Psychologist	Clinical Psychologist	Assistant Professor	2003	0.75
		DRA(s): Aging and Age-Related Changes; Mental Illness				
		DRE(s): Treatment				
		INTERESTS: Dementia				
Jessica Davila	PhD, MS, BS	Health Services Researcher	Research Health Science Specialist	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	2001	1
		DRA(s): Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Prevention; Epidemiology				
		INTERESTS: Cancer; Cancer Prevention and Control; Treatment Outcome				
Anita Deswal	MD, MPH, MBBS	Physician	Staff Physician	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	2000	0.75
		DRA(s): Chronic Diseases; Special (Underserved, High Risk) Populations				
		DRE(s): Diagnosis and Prognosis; Epidemiology; Etiology; Pathophysiology; Quality of Care;				
		INTERESTS: Cardiology; Clinical Trials; Outcomes Measurement; Racial Differences in Care				
Hashem B. El-Serag	MD, MPH	Physician	Staff Physician	Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1999	0.75
		DRA(s): Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Diagnosis and Prognosis; Epidemiology; Etiology; Resource Use and Cost; Treatment				
		INTERESTS: Clinical Decision-Making; Comorbidity; Cost-Benefit Analysis; Databases; Evidence-Based Medicine; Hepatitis C; Neoplasms; Outcome Assessment (Health Care)				
Marvella E. Ford	PhD, MS, MSW	Health Services Researcher Associate Director (COE)	Research Health Science Specialist	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	2002	0.27
		DRA(s): Aging and Age-Related Changes; Chronic Diseases; Special (Underserved, High Risk) Populations				
		INTERESTS: Access to Primary Care and Preventive Services; Aging; Cancer Prevention and Control; Cultural Diversity; Health Behavior; Health Care Seeking Behavior; Health Related Quality of Life; Mammography; Minority Health; Psychometrics				

Houston Center of Excellence Investigators (Core and Affiliate), FY 2004

	Degree(s)	Center Title(s)	Other VA Title(s)	University Title(s)	Year Joined FP	FTE*
Susan Garber	MA, BS	Health Services Researcher	Research Health Science Specialist	Professor, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Baylor College of Medicine	2003	0.25
		DRA(s): Acute and Traumatic Injury				
		DRE(s): Rehabilitation				
		INTERESTS: Spinal Cord Injury and Rehabilitation				
Howard S. Gordon	MD, SB	Physician	Staff Physician	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1996	0.75
		DRA(s): Aging and Age-Related Changes; Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems; Special (Underserved, High Risk) Populations				
		DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Quality of Care; Resource Use and Cost				
		INTERESTS: Advance Directives; Behavior; Benchmarking; Cardiovascular Diseases; Clinical Decision-Making; Comorbidity; Databases; Health Behavior; Health Care Seeking Behavior; Health Services Accessibility; Health Services Research; Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice; Low Back Pain; Lower Extremity Amputation; Outcome Assessment (Health Care); Patient Acceptance of Health Care; Physician Practice Patterns; Physician-Patient Relations; Procedure Use and Outcomes in Cardiology; Quality Assurance, Health Care - Quality of Health Care; Risk Adjustment; United States Department of Veteran Affairs				
Paul Haidet	MD, MPH	Medical Educator Physician	Staff Physician	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1998	0.75
		DRA(s): Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Prevention; Quality of Care				
		INTERESTS: Advance Directives; Ambulatory Care; Behavior; Evidence-Based Medicine; Health Behavior; Health Care Seeking Behavior; Medical Education; Medical Ethics; Patient Education; Patient Satisfaction; Physician-Patient Relations; Professional-Patient				
Michael L. Johnson	PhD	Health Science Researcher	Research Health Science Specialist	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1992	1
		DRA(s): Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems; Special (Underserved, High Risk) Populations				
		DRE(s): Quality of Care; Resource Use and Cost				
		INTERESTS: Biostatistics; Chronic Disease; Databases; Health Services Research; Outcome Assessment (Health Care); Practice Patterns; Procedure Use and Outcomes in Cardiology; Quality Assurance, Health Care - Quality of Health Care; Research Design; Risk				

Houston Center of Excellence Investigators (Core and Affiliate), FY 2004

	Degree(s)	Center Title(s)	Other VA Title(s)	University Title(s)	Year Joined FP	FTE*
P. Adam Kelly	PhD, MBA, BS	Research	Research Health Scientist	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	2002	0.5
		DRA(s):	Health Services and Systems; Special (Underserved, High Risk) Populations			
		DRE(s):	Communication and Decision Making; Quality of Care; Technology Development and Assessment			
		INTERESTS:	Assessment; Education; Health Care Evaluation and Measurement; Health Services Research; Human Subjects Protection; Patient-Centered Care; Physician-Patient Relations; Program Evaluation; Psychometrics; Statistics			
Mark E. Kunik	MD, MPH	Associate Director (COE)	Staff Physician	Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Baylor College of Medicine	1999	1
		DRA(s):	Aging and Age-Related Changes; Chronic Diseases; Mental Illness			
		DRE(s):	Diagnosis and Prognosis; Epidemiology; Treatment			
		INTERESTS:	Alzheimer's Disease; Behavioral Symptoms; Chronic Disease; Dementia; Depression; Health Services Research; Treatment Outcome			
Maurice Leon Moffett	PhD, MA, BBA	Health Services Researcher	Research Economist	Assistant Professor	2003	1
		DRA(s):	Health Services and Systems			
		DRE(s):	Resource Use and Cost			
		INTERESTS:	Analysis			
Robert O. Morgan	PhD	Health Services Researcher	Statistician	Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Community and Family Medicine, Dartmouth Medical	1999	0.62
		DRA(s):	Aging and Age-Related Changes; Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems			
		DRE(s):	Communication and Decision Making; Diagnosis and Prognosis; Epidemiology; Quality of Care; Resource Use and Cost			
		INTERESTS:	Accidental Falls; Advance Directives; Ambulatory Care; Behavior; Behavior and Behavioral Mechanisms; Best Practices; Chronic Disease; Clinical Decision-Making; Comorbidity; Cost-Benefit Analysis; Cost-Effectiveness of Primary Care; Cross-Cultural Comparison; Cultural Diversity; Databases; Delivery of Health Care, Integrated; Dementia; Depression; Diffusion of Innovation; Effects of Exercise on Functional Status and Injury Risk; Emergency Medical Services; Evidence-Based Medicine; Fall-Related Injuries in the Elderly; Frail Elderly; Health Behavior; Health Care Costs and Cost Analysis; Health Care Evaluation Mechanisms; Health Care Seeking Behavior; Health Services Needs and Demands; Health Services Research; Managed Care Programs; Medical Education; Organizational Policy; Outcome Assessment (Health Care); Physician Practice Patterns; Physician-Patient Relations; Population Characteristics; Public Policy; Research Design; Risk Adjustment; Risk Factors; Sample Size; Telemedicine; Treatment Outcome; Utilization and Cost of Health Care			

Houston Center of Excellence Investigators (Core and Affiliate), FY 2004

	Degree(s)	Center Title(s)	Other VA Title(s)	University Title(s)	Year Joined FP	FTE*
Aanand Dinkar Naik	MD, BS	Physician	Staff Physician	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	2004	0.75
		DRA(s): Aging and Age-Related Changes				
		DRE(s): Treatment				
		INTERESTS: Aging; Endoscopy				
Laura A. Petersen	MD, MPH	Physician	Staff Physician	Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1998	0.75
		DRA(s): Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems; Special (Underserved, High Risk) Populations				
		DRE(s): Epidemiology; Quality of Care; Resource Use and Cost; Treatment				
		INTERESTS: Benchmarking; Best Practices; Cardiovascular Diseases; Delivery of Health Care, Integrated; Health Services Accessibility; Health Services Needs and Demands; Outcome Assessment (Health Care); Physician Practice Patterns; Procedure Use and Outcomes in Cardiology; Quality of Care				
Nancy J. Petersen	PhD	Chief of Design and Analysis Team Biostatistician, HCQCUS	Statistician	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1990	1
		DRA(s): Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Epidemiology; Quality of Care; Resource Use and Cost				
		INTERESTS: Assessment; Biostatistics; Chronic Heart Failure; Comorbidity; Controlled Clinical Trial; Databases; Patient Outcomes; Quality Assurance, Health Care - Quality of Health Care; Risk Adjustment; Utilization and Cost of Health Care				
Kenneth C. Pietz	PhD, MS, BA	Biostatistician	Statistician - Medicine	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1994	0.9
		DRA(s): Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Resource Use and Cost				
		INTERESTS: Biostatistics; Clinical Trials; Cost and Utilization; Health Care Costs and Cost Analysis; Health Economics; Hierarchical Statistical Models; Statistical Methodology; Statistical Models; Statistical Theory and Methodology; Statistics				

Houston Center of Excellence Investigators (Core and Affiliate), FY 2004

	Degree(s)	Center Title(s)	Other VA Title(s)	University Title(s)	Year Joined FP	FTE*
A. Lynn Snow	PhD	Assistant Director for Education Health Services Researcher	Research Health Science Specialist	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	2000	1
		DRA(s): Aging and Age-Related Changes; Health Services and Systems; Mental Illness				
		DRE(s): Diagnosis and Prognosis; Quality of Care; Treatment				
		INTERESTS: Assessment; Dementia; Long-Term Care; Outcome Assessment (Health Care); Pain; Psychometrics; Quality Assurance, Health Care - Quality of Health Care; Research Design				
LeChauncy D. Woodard	MD, MPH	Physician	Staff Physician	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	2001	0.25
		DRA(s): Chronic Diseases				
		DRE(s): Quality of Care; Prevention				
		INTERESTS: Chronic Disease; Disparities in Treatments Received				
* FTEE refers to percentage of time devoted to HSR&D that is paid by the VA						

Houston Center of Excellence Investigators (Core and Affiliate), FY 2004

	Degree(s)	Center Title(s)	Other VA Title(s)	University Title(s)	Year Joined FP	FTE*
Affiliate Investigator(s)						
David H. Berger	MD	Affiliate Investigator		Associate Professor	2004	
		DRA(s): Acute and Traumatic Injury; Chronic Diseases				
		DRE(s): Diagnosis and Prognosis				
		INTERESTS: Cancer; Surgery				
Baruch A. Brody	PhD, MA, BA	Affiliate Investigator Leon Jaworski Professor of Biomedical Ethics, Baylor College of Medicine		Director, Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy, Baylor College of Medicine Profesor, Philosophy, Rice University	2003	0
		DRA(s): Aging and Age-Related Changes; Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making				
		INTERESTS: Health Services Research; Medical Ethics				
Margaret M. Byrne	PhD	Affiliate Investigator	Research Economist	Assistant Professor, Division of Internal Medicine, University of Pittsburgh	1996	
		DRA(s): Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Quality of Care; Resource Use and Cost				
		INTERESTS: Behavior; Cost-Benefit Analysis; Financial Incentives; Health Services Research; Medical Ethics; Policy Making				
Ruth P. Caggins	PhD	Affiliate Investigator		Associate Professor of Nursing, Prairie View A&M University	2004	
George M. Dolson	MD	Affiliate Investigator			2001	

Houston Center of Excellence Investigators (Core and Affiliate), FY 2004

	Degree(s)	Center Title(s)	Other VA Title(s)	University Title(s)	Year Joined FP	FTE*
Nancy Jo Dunn	PhD, MS, BA	Research	Clinical Psychologist, Houston VAMC	Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Baylor College of Medicine Adjunct Faculty, Department of Psychology, University of Houston	1997	0
		DRA(s): Health Services and Systems; Mental Illness; Special (Underserved, High Risk)				
		DRE(s): Diagnosis and Prognosis; Treatment				
		INTERESTS: Comorbidity; Depression; Stress Disorders, Post-Traumatic; Treatment Outcome				
Chloe Gaines	PhD	Affiliate Investigator			2003	0
Thomas P. Giordano	MD, BS	Physician	Staff Physician	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	2002	0
		DRA(s): Health Services and Systems; Special (Underserved, High Risk) Populations				
		DRE(s): Quality of Care; Resource Use and Cost; Treatment				
		INTERESTS: Disparities in Treatments Received; Health Outcomes; Health Services Accessibility; Health Services Research; HIV/AIDS; Impacts of New Drug/Technology on AIDS; Infectious Disease; Minority Health; Racial Differences in Care				
Laura Goetzl	MD, MPH	Physician - Health Services	Staff Physician	Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics&Gynecology, Baylor College of Medicine	2000	0
		DRA(s): Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Epidemiology; Pathophysiology; Treatment				
		INTERESTS: Women's Health; Women's Health Services				
David H. Kuykendall	PhD, MBA, BA	Health Services Researcher	Research Health Scientist	Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	2004	0

Houston Center of Excellence Investigators (Core and Affiliate), FY 2004

	Degree(s)	Center Title(s)	Other VA Title(s)	University Title(s)	Year Joined FP	FTE*
Laurence	PhD, AB	Affiliate Investigator - Without Compensation (WOC)	Staff Associate for Long-Term Care Research, Houston VAMC	Professor of Medicine and Medical Ethics, Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston Faculty Associate, Huffington Center on Aging, Baylor College of Medicine Adjunct Professor of Ethics in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Cornell University Medical College, New York	1997	0
		DRA(s): Aging and Age-Related Changes; Health Services and Systems; Special (Underserved, High Risk) Populations				
		DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making				
		INTERESTS: Frail Elderly; Medical Ethics; Physician-Patient Relations				
Kimberly J. O'Malley	PhD, MS, BS	Health Services Researcher		Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1999	0
		DRA(s): Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Epidemiology; Treatment				
		INTERESTS: Behavior; Best Practices; Clinical Decision-Making; Databases; Delivery of Health Care, Integrated; Health Behavior; Health Services Needs and Demands; Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice; Multicenter Study; Pain; Patient Satisfaction; Physician Practice Patterns; Quality of Life; Sample Size; Teaching; Treatment Outcome; United States Department of Veteran				
Nora Inyang	PharmD	Research Scientist		Assistant Professor, Texas Southern University	2001	0
		DRA(s): Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Quality of Care				
		INTERESTS: Pharmacoeconomics				
Debora A. Paterniti	PhD	Affiliate Investigator		Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1997	0
		DRA(s): Aging and Age-Related Changes; Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Quality of Care				
		INTERESTS: Advance Directives; Cross-Cultural Comparison; Cultural Diversity; Health Behavior; Health Care Policy; Health Care Seeking Behavior; Health Services Research; Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice; Long-Term Care; Medical Education; Medical Ethics; Medical Sociology; Patient Acceptance of Health Care; Patient Compliance; Patient Education; Patient Satisfaction; Physician-Patient Relations; Professional-Patient Relations; Quality of Life; Research Design; Women's Health				

Houston Center of Excellence Investigators (Core and Affiliate), FY 2004

	Degree(s)	Center Title(s)	Other VA Title(s)	University Title(s)	Year Joined FP	FTE*
Yasser Shaib	MD, MPH, BS	Physician	Staff Physician	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	2003	0.4
		DRA(s): Chronic Diseases				
		DRE(s): Diagnosis and Prognosis				
		INTERESTS: Gastroenterology; Hepatitis C				
Melinda A. Stanley	PhD	Affiliate Investigator		Adjunct Faculty, Department of Psychology, University of Houston Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Baylor College of Medicine	2004	
		DRA(s): Mental Illness				
		DRE(s): Treatment				
		INTERESTS: Anxiety; Behavior and Behavioral Mechanisms				
Maria E. Suarez-Almazor	MD, PhD	Research Physician Associate Director (COE), 2003-2004		Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1999	0
		DRA(s): Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Diagnosis and Prognosis; Quality of Care				
		INTERESTS: Rheumatic Diseases				
Pamela Willson	PhD, MSN, BSN	Research Nurse		Clinical Instructor, Department of Neurology, Baylor College of	2003	0.4
		DRA(s): Special (Underserved, High Risk) Populations; Aging and Age-Related Changes				
		DRE(s): Prevention				
		INTERESTS: Women's Health				

Houston Center of Excellence Investigators (Core and Affiliate), FY 2004

	Degree(s)	Center Title(s)	Other VA Title(s)	University Title(s)	Year Joined FP	FTE*
Nelda P. Wray	MD, MPH	Physician-Health Services Researcher		Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine Adjunct Professor (Health Services), the University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston	1990	0
		DRA(s):	Aging and Age-Related Changes; Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems			
		DRE(s):	Communication and Decision Making; Quality of Care; Resource Use and Cost			
		INTERESTS:	Advance Directives; Behavior; Behavior and Behavioral Mechanisms; Benchmarking; Chronic Disease; Clinical Competence; Controlled Clinical Trial; Cost-Benefit Analysis; Cross-Cultural Comparison; Databases; Delivery of Health Care, Integrated; Health Behavior; Health Care Costs and Cost Analysis; Health Care Policy; Health Services Needs and Demands; Health Services Research; Medical Ethics; Multicenter Study; Neoplasms; Organization and Management; Outcome Assessment (Health Care); Patient Satisfaction; Procedure Use and Outcomes in Cardiology; Product Line Management; Quality Assurance, Health Care - Quality of Health Care; Quality of Life; Randomized Controlled Trial; Research Design; Risk Adjustment; Risk Factors			

* FTEE refers to percentage of time devoted to HSR&D that is paid by the VA

3 Center Funding

During FY04, the Center has continued its success in obtaining funding from various funding streams outside the annual core allocation from the VA HSR&D Service and contributions from the Houston VA Medical Center – namely, VA research grants; research grants from other federal agencies; eight career development grants and VISN contract agreements. We attribute this success to an outstanding cadre of investigators on staff who are dedicated to supporting the missions of VHA Headquarters, the various VISN programs, VISN 16, and the Houston VA Medical Center. The Houston Center now has eight funding streams: 1) annual core allocation from the VA HSR&D Service in VA Headquarters; 2) VA research grants; 3) research grants from other federal agencies; 4) research grants from philanthropic foundations and drug study companies; 5) VA and non-VA training grants and career development grants; 6) project contracts with VA entities; 7) contributions from the Houston VA Medical Center; and 8) university contributions from Baylor College of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Section of Health Services Research.

The total budget for the Houston Center of Excellence for FY04 was \$12,163,289. This includes \$9,186,987 in project-generated funds, an approximate ratio of 7:1 of leveraged project funding to HSR&D Core funding. The FY04 budget reflects a 20.00% increase from FY03. The largest growth is in HSR&D funding, which increased from \$3,157,822 in FY03 to \$4,044,968 in FY04, primarily due to increase in IIRs followed by increase in Career Development Awards.

Funding from contractual projects with other VISN programs increased slightly from \$293,453 in FY03 to \$312,328 in FY04. There is no SDR funding in FY04 due to finalization of the EXPERT program, and transition into a new METRIC Center. Facility contributions increased to \$1,115,194, up from \$480,634 five years ago, mostly from the additional space of 10,000 square feet.

At the end of the fiscal year, the Center had a total of over \$12 million dollars under review in grant applications. Breakdown for total direct costs were \$10,870,713 and total indirect costs were \$1,535,200. The Center estimates that it should always have approximately 2 to 3 times its current operating budget represented in grants under review, assuming approval rates on grant submissions of 25% to 33%.

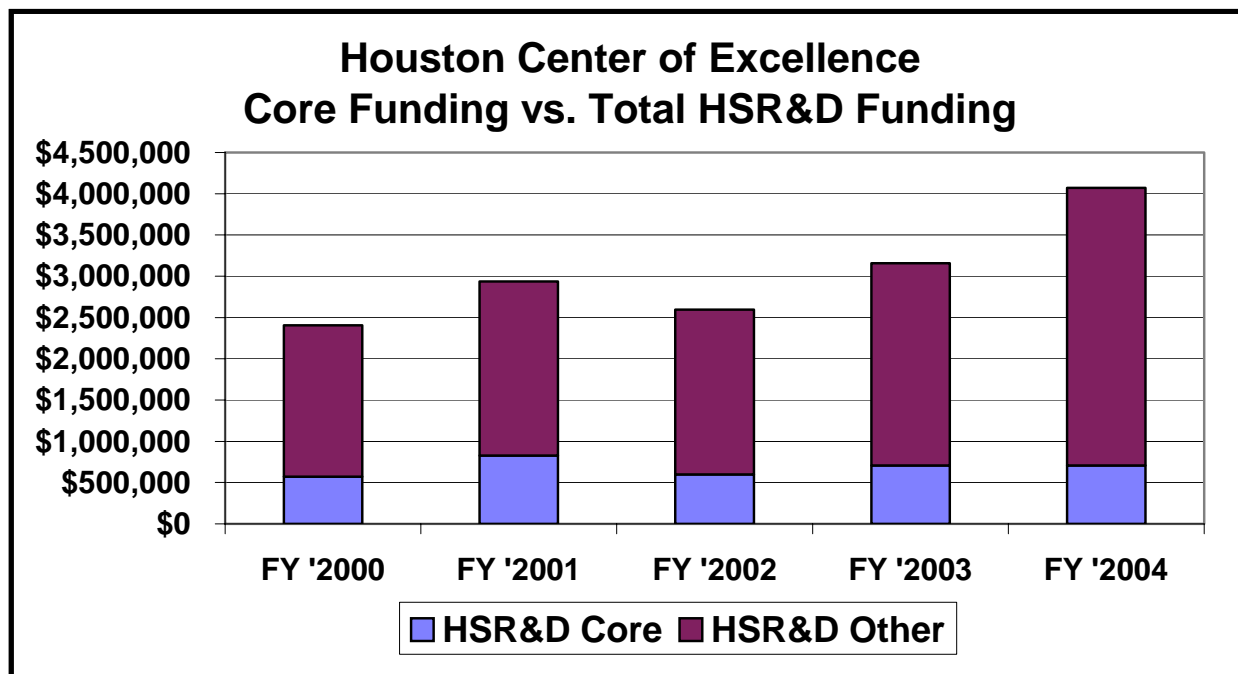
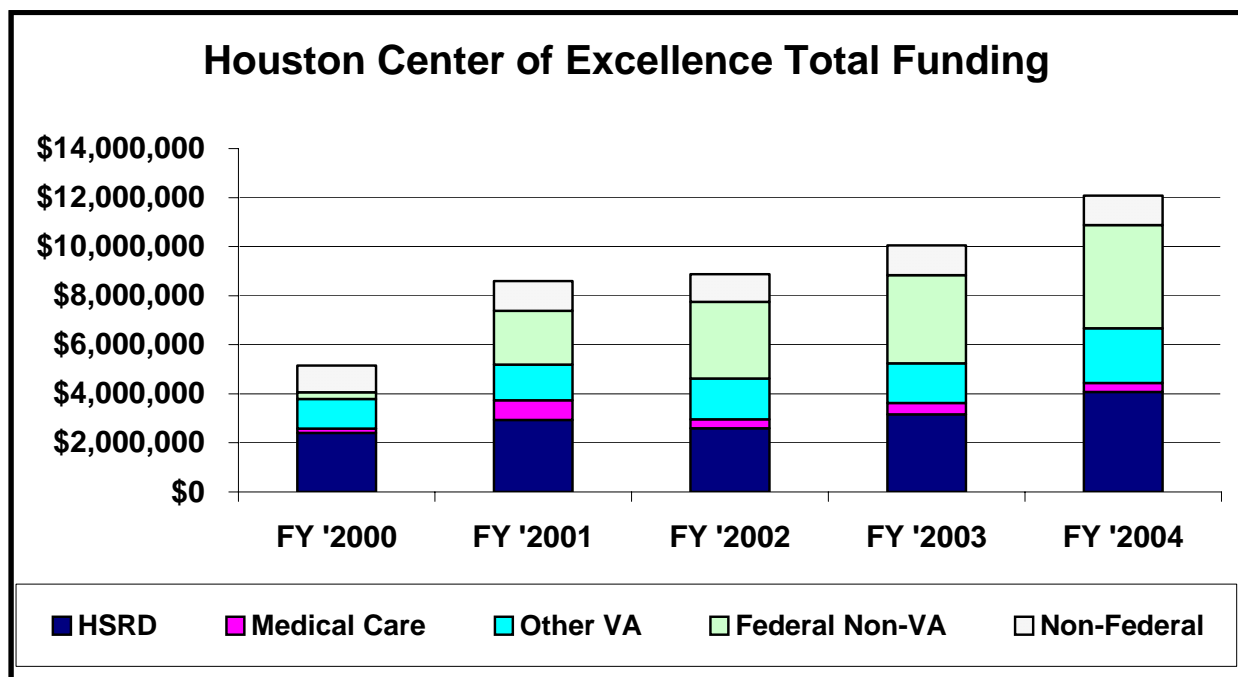
3.1 Budget Information (Table 2)

Houston Center of Excellence Budget Information

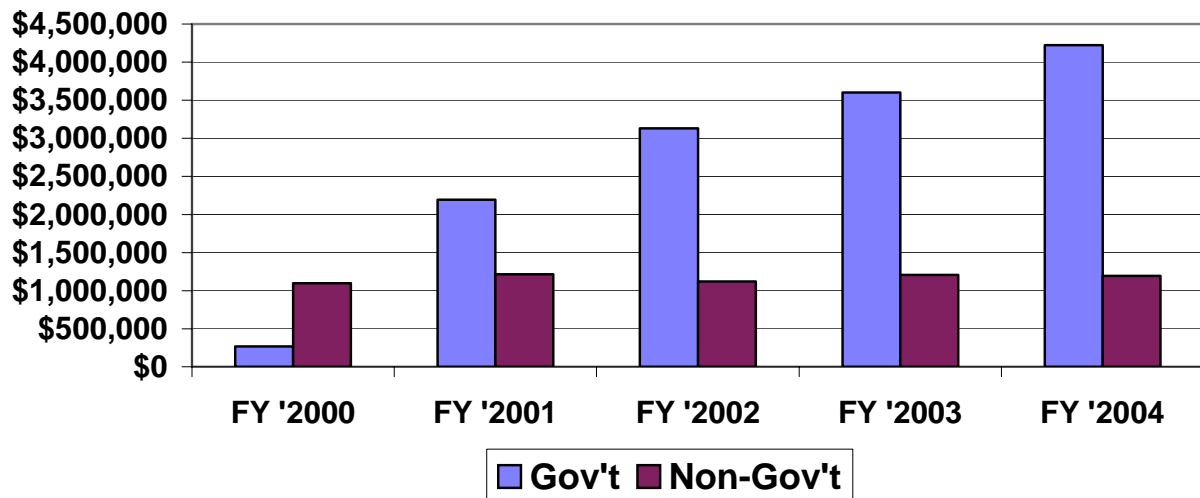
Fiscal Year Funding						Number Of Projects				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Funding Source(s)										
HSR&D										
Core	\$571,551	\$825,000	\$600,000	\$708,000	\$708,000	1	1	1	1	1
Supplemental Funds	\$313,437	\$188,500	\$70,000	\$60,000	\$0	2	1	1	1	1
IIR	\$659,167	\$777,881	\$692,274	\$1,056,511	\$1,919,038	7	5	9	11	13
SDR	\$170,067	\$69,525	\$246,975	\$225,842	\$0	3	1	1	2	1
MRC	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$52,547	\$0	0	0	0	1	0
Career Development	\$641,125	\$862,827	\$770,184	\$728,172	\$1,042,908	4	6	6	6	6
Career Scientist	\$0	\$53,542	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	1	0	0	0
AIA	\$13,774	\$55,096	\$49,000	\$0	\$84,914	1	1	1	0	1
LIP - HSR&D	\$0	\$19,100	\$85,000	\$50,000	\$0	1	1	3	2	1
LIP - HSR&D, QUERI	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,263	0	0	0	0	1
QUERI Projects	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,698	0	0	0	0	1
Special Projects	\$0	\$34,600	\$33,400	\$0	\$0	0	2	2	0	0
MRP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$103,048	\$218,310	0	0	0	2	2
Other Center	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	0	0	0	0
USA	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$0	1	1	1	1	0
HBU	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,450	\$0	0	0	0	1	0
Admin & Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$132,252	\$70,535	0	0	0	1	2
Sub Total	\$2,404,121	\$2,936,071	\$2,596,833	\$3,157,822	\$4,070,666	21	20	25	29	30
Other VA										
CSP	\$0	\$140,990	\$154,558	\$190,842	\$542,757	0	1	1	1	3
MDRC	\$34,293	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	0	0	0	0
Other	\$93,307	\$79,843	\$55,561	\$256,573	\$236,668	2	2	3	7	3
Core - Facility Contributions	\$480,634	\$712,756	\$860,930	\$871,806	\$1,115,194	1	1	1	1	1
VISN	\$593,850	\$525,154	\$574,645	\$293,453	\$312,328	7	6	9	5	2
Other Center	\$0	\$0	\$11,104	\$0	\$17,568	0	0	1	0	1
Sub Total	\$1,202,084	\$1,458,743	\$1,656,798	\$1,612,674	\$2,224,515	11	10	15	14	10
Federal Non-VA										
NIH	\$93,483	\$646,719	\$915,369	\$1,849,726	\$2,810,481	3	7	13	17	18
AHRQ	\$1,667	\$1,267,278	\$1,990,142	\$1,558,915	\$1,351,326	1	3	2	2	2
Other	\$174,497	\$279,778	\$225,584	\$191,952	\$60,345	4	4	5	4	5
Sub Total	\$269,647	\$2,193,775	\$3,131,095	\$3,600,593	\$4,222,152	8	14	20	23	25

Non-Federal										
Foundations	\$176,573	\$252,264	\$164,288	\$144,100	\$127,464	9	9	6	3	4
Commercial	\$46,512	\$230,033	\$338,254	\$227,772	\$134,401	6	7	10	7	8
Other	\$26,667	\$108,883	\$90,735	\$104,327	\$164,135	2	6	6	7	5
Core - University	\$846,547	\$624,374	\$528,302	\$731,835	\$767,598	1	2	4	3	2
Sub Total	\$1,096,299	\$1,215,554	\$1,121,579	\$1,208,034	\$1,193,598	18	24	26	20	19
Training Programs										
OAA	\$77,508	\$93,661	\$95,862	\$89,600	\$110,200	1	1	1	1	1
Sub Total	\$77,508	\$93,661	\$95,862	\$89,600	\$110,200	1	1	1	1	1
Medical Care										
QUERI Center Core	\$0	\$350,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$228,000	0	1	1	1	1
QUERI Projects - MC	\$179,000	\$447,300	\$65,100	\$136,350	\$95,202	1	2	1	1	3
Supplemental Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	0	0	0	1	0
Admin & Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,550	0	0	0	0	2
Admin & Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,663	\$38,104	0	0	0	1	1
Sub Total	\$179,000	\$797,300	\$365,100	\$467,013	\$367,856	1	3	2	4	7
Totals	\$5,228,659	\$8,695,104	\$8,967,267	\$10,135,736	\$12,188,987	60	72	89	91	92
						Total Number Of Unique Projects				
						2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Note: Projects are counted only once if they have multiple funding sources.						60	72	90	91	84

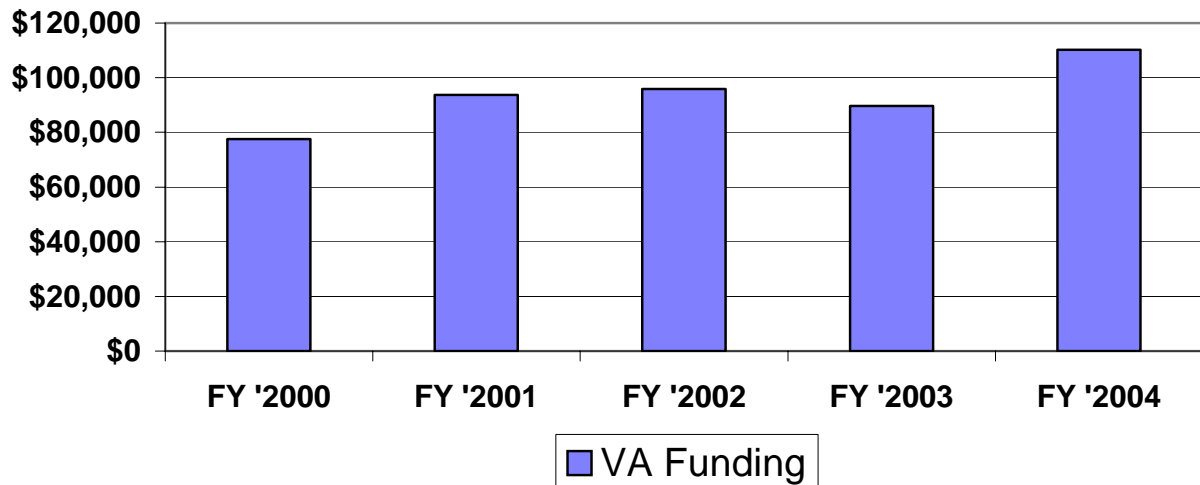
3.2 Funding Charts (Figures 1-4)



Houston Center of Excellence External (Non-VA) Funding



Houston Center of Excellence Training Support History



4 Research Projects

Since its inception, the Houston Center for Quality of Care and Utilization studies has grown in many ways, in size, structure, and the areas of health services research performed by its investigators. Its evolution has continued with the creation of an innovative organizational structure centered around the promotion of three Associate Directors and the embracing of their three areas of research interest: translational research, health disparities, and chronic care models. In the future, these three research areas will be at the core of Center's research, marking a shift in focus from quality assessment to quality improvement. These three areas of interest directly tie in with the recommendation in the Institute of Medicine's *Crossing the Quality Chasm* to "continually reduce the burden of illness, injury, and disability, and to improve the health and functioning of the people of the United States," and they tie in with the six specific aims for improvement of health care that follow, as well: **translational research** works to ensure that care is *effective* and *efficient*, putting research into practice in a *timely* fashion; **health disparities research** focuses on the provision of care that is *equitable* and *timely* for all people, regardless of personal characteristics; and **chronic care models** work to integrate and improve the care that people with chronic diseases receive in an *efficient*, *effective*, and *patient-centered* manner. Translation is also one of the key goals of the Center's strategic plan, and choosing it as an area of research focus will help to achieve the goals of further developing ideas and methods of translation, raising awareness within the Center, and creating an internal culture wherein translation and dissemination is an integral part of scientific research.

In total, the Center was involved in 78 funded research projects and programs during this reporting period. Funding was initiated in FY03 for 23 new projects and programs, funding was completed for 14 but 6 of the projects are still in the analysis or final report preparation stage. Selected projects are described below and, where appropriate, are listed in one of the three research areas.

Rebecca Beyth: Translational Research

Description

Translation research is research to enhance the integration of evidence into clinical practice. The Translation Research Program will build upon existing research conducted at Houston Center for Quality of Care and Utilization Studies.

Goals

- The Translation Research Program will focus on increasing the amount of scientifically sound translation research conducted at the Center, using the IOM's Quality Chasm Report, the Eisenberg "impact triangle", and the VA Quality Enhancement and Research Initiative (QUERI) experience.
- Program goals include:
- Develop a Translation Research Program at the Center that is recognized locally and nationally as a premiere research program leading translation research.
- Identify and organize collaboration among current Center investigators conducting (or planning to conduct) translation research in order to maximize our success.
- Identify among our current research portfolio research that is ready (or will be ready) for translation.
- Increase the amount of federal funding (both VA and non VA) for translation research awarded to the Center.
- Increase the scope and magnitude of federal funding in support of translation research and training of future investigators.

Links to Center's Strategic Plan

First and foremost, the development and success of a Translational Research Program is consistent with our Center's Mission to impact "health and health care by conducting and *translating* outstanding research and developing influential leaders in health outcomes, quality, access, utilization and cost". Thus, a translation program needs to recognize that Center investigators work along a continuum of research from *efficacy research* (testing new treatments/interventions under controlled circumstances), to *effectiveness research* (testing efficacious treatments/interventions/new methods of delivery on broad populations and in usual care settings), and to *translation research* (research to enhance the integration of evidence into routine practice). Center investigators may at any given time be working one or all points on this continuum. A successful translation program will provide the Center's investigators with the necessary infrastructure and expertise to conduct high quality research along this continuum.

Impact and Translation (Goals 1 and 2): The development of a translation research program is directly linked to the Center's strategic goals 1 and 2. A necessary first step to achieve the program's goal is to increase the awareness among the Center's investigators and staff about translation research to create a learning culture where the investigators and staff integrate translation and dissemination into the very fabric of their research projects and agendas. In order to achieve this goal, Center Team Leaders (TLs) will need to become familiar with what translation or implementation research is. As part of the Foundations in HSR, a didactic session on translation/implementation will be presented. Also, all future grants will require an implementation and dissemination plan that will be reviewed along with the science and budget sections. Recruitment plans are underway for a Master's level person to help with achieving these goals. This person will be part of the infrastructure support, and will also help in assessing what further needs the Center and TLs have to achieve this goal. Additionally, the REI performance and evaluation will provide a mechanism for tracking and monitoring impact. A part-time staff member has been hired to provide support for this initiative and implement its incorporation into the Center's ongoing administrative activities.

Development (Goal 3): The focus of translation or implementation research will develop once the underlying backbone of infrastructure is in place. It will then allow for the recruitment of TLs with the needed expertise in healthcare management, health communication, and organization/structure of complex adaptive systems. It will also allow for existing TLs to develop and further their own research agendas with translation in mind. Having the infrastructure and expertise will allow TLs to hand off products from their research for further implementation.

Current Center projects related to translational research include:

Dr. Carol Ashton and Dr. Rebecca Beyth were each awarded a planning grant for the VISN/HSR&D Implementation Collaborative: Innovations To Implement Evidence-Based Clinical Practice initiative.

Dr. Ashton's project specific objectives were: (1) to facilitate the implementation into routine clinical practice of the major findings of ALLHAT, namely that thiazide-based antihypertensive regimens are the treatment of choice for the majority of patients with hypertension, and (2) to generate knowledge that will facilitate implementation of ALLHAT through a) activities based on the principles of diffusion science described by Everett Rogers and b) through the development of an ALLHAT implementation plan that incorporates critical general as well the context- or site-specific implementation lessons and strategies. The project is complete and the study is in the final report preparation stage.

Dr. Beyth's project specific objectives were: (1) To facilitate implementation of known best practices for HF management using national guidelines in a coordinated care approach from

acute decompensation to chronic care in representative VA facilities, and (2) To generate knowledge that will facilitate a HF implementation plan, which will incorporate assessment and evaluation of educational needs (patients and providers), acute care needs, and chronic care needs (including telehealth) tailored to the organizational structures that support the care of VA HF patients and can be implemented across VA networks. The study is in the data analysis stage.

Dr. Rebecca Beyth is conducting a project, "Improving Anti-Thrombotic Use in Stroke Prevention," funded by the NIH for five years. This project seeks to provide information about risk factors that are potentially modifiable through interventions targeted to reduce the risk of warfarin-related bleeding. The study is in the data collection stage.

Dr. Howard Gordon was awarded a five year IIR from the Department of Veterans Affairs titled, "Physician-Patient Communication in Patients with Chronic Heart Failure." The specific aim of the project is to assess the relationship of communication to outcomes in patients with chronic heart failure (CHF). The study is in the data collection phase.

Dr. Ursula Braun was awarded a four year IIR from the Department of Veterans Affairs titled, "A Culturally Sensitive Values-Guided Aid for End of Life Decision-Making." The goals of this study are to 1) directly compare, critically assess, and revise two Values Histories on the basis of qualitative data derived from individual interviews with racially/ethnically diverse patients and surrogates, and explore patients', surrogates', and physicians' values, preferences and concerns that guide decision-making about medical interventions at the end-of-life and 2) adapt the existing Values Histories into a clinically practical tool, the Values Inventory discussion aid, and conduct preliminary testing of this tool as a practical discussion aid to be used in physician-patient or physician-surrogate encounters to improve and facilitate decisions about end-of-life care. The study is in the data collection phase.

Marvella Ford: Health Disparities

Description

Health disparities research may be defined as research focusing on the disproportionate burden of disease experienced by racial and ethnic minority groups in the U.S. The Health Disparities Research Program will build upon existing research conducted at the Center.

Goals

The Health Disparities Research Program will focus on increasing the amount of scientifically sound health disparities research conducted at the Center, using a health services research paradigm.

Program goals include:

- Developing a Health Disparities Research Program at the Center.
- Developing a local and national identity as a Health Disparities Research Program.
- Forming a collaborative partnership with the Center for Research on Minority Health at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, led by Dr. Lovell Jones.
- Increasing the number of social scientists conducting health disparities research at the Center.
- Meeting with directors of existing health disparities programs across the country, to gain insight from their experiences.
- Increasing the amount of research collaboration with local investigators conducting health disparities research.

- Increasing the amount of research collaboration with local colleges and universities where a majority of the students have historically been African American, and other minority-serving institutions, in order to build on their unique perspectives in addressing health disparities issues.
- Increasing the amount of federal funding for health disparities research awarded to the Center.
- Increasing communication and collaboration among Center investigators conducting health disparities research in order to develop cohesive action plans for future funding opportunities.
- On a national level, increasing the scope and magnitude of VA funding in support of health disparities research and training of minority investigators.

As part of the Program, the following key questions related to health disparities could be addressed:

- What is the role of socioeconomic status in health disparities?
- Within racial and ethnic subgroups, to what extent are gender, age, and cultural factors (e.g., country of origin, birth language) associated with health disparities?
- What are key components of patient- and provider-level interventions designed to reduce health disparities?

Questions related to the development of the Health Disparities Research Program include:

- What are the components of a successful Program?
- What would be the focus of the Program?
- Which types of backgrounds would investigators in the Program have?

Links to Center's Strategic Plan

Impact (Goal 1): The Health Disparities Research Program will produce health disparities research that has impact on science, policy, practice, and patients. To accomplish this aim, we will examine the relevance of current Center research efforts to health disparities research.

Translation (Goal 2): The Program will also translate research results into practice. Through our work with faculty at Prairie View A&M University College of Nursing, research findings could be incorporated into curricula taught to the next generation of nursing practitioners. Additionally, we will work to utilize existing resources at the VA to disseminate the results of our research. Translation is a key component of VA research nationwide. Therefore, in addition to disseminating our research results through national, peer-reviewed journals, we will also participate in Grand Rounds at the Houston VAMC.

Development (Goal 3): Development will form an integral part of the Program. We are currently recruiting and training new entrants into health services research through our partnership with local minority serving institutions via several different mechanisms.

The first is the VA Research Experience Program, in which we have collaborated with a faculty member from the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at Texas Southern University, and through which we will collaborate with faculty from the College of Nursing at Prairie View A&M University. The purpose of the Research Experience Program is to encourage students and scientists from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) or Native American Serving Colleges and Universities (NASUs) to participate in the research enterprise of the VA. The Program offers research experience in VA-funded research programs for up to two full years, by allowing supplements to currently funded programs.

Other potential funding mechanisms consist of proposed new initiatives from the VA. Marvella Ford served as co-chair of a VA Blue Ribbon Committee panel that helped to develop the initiatives. These proposed initiatives include a VA Research Mentored-Minority Supplemental Award (MMSA) Program, a VA Research Mentored-Minority Career Enhancement Award (MMCEA), and a VA Minority Research Enhancement Center (MINREC) with Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs).

Our first step will be to seek funding via the last mechanism mentioned above, to develop a MINREC. The purpose of the MINREC's organizational structure is to achieve synergy between VA and MSIs that have a mutual interest to conduct basic, clinical, social, health services and behavioral research. Faculty and enrolled degree-seeking students from the designated MSIs are eligible to participate in the MINREC program through establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with VA. Center investigators participating in the Health Disparities Research Program will also participate in the VA-supported Minority Research Center. The Center located within the Health Disparities Research Program would focus on conducting health disparities research from a health services research perspective.

Another mechanism is the NIH Minority Supplement Program. The aim of the supplement program is to attract and encourage minority individuals to enter and pursue health-related research careers in areas within the mission areas of all the awarding components of the NIH. The proposed research experience must be an integral part of the approved ongoing research of the parent grant and have the potential to contribute significantly to the research career development of the candidate.

Current Center projects related to health disparities research include:

Dr. Robert Morgan was awarded a three-year IIR project from the Department of Veterans Affairs titled, "Medicare HMO Enrollment and VA Use by Minority and Low Income Veterans." This study had two specific aims: Aim 1: To examine individual-level factors affecting enrollment by minority and low-income veterans in HMO plans, as well as use of medical care and satisfaction with care by these VA users compared to White and higher-income veterans, and to veterans who do not use the VA medical system. Aim 2: To examine patterns of enrollment in Medicare HMOs by different race/ethnic and income-based sub-groups of VA users, and to describe changes in HMO enrollment by VA users following the implementation of the BBA provisions. Based on survey findings, regardless of their VA-using status, respondents' intention-to-use the VA was higher for low-income veterans compared to higher income veterans, and was two-fold higher for Blacks compared to Whites. This project is complete and the final report was submitted to headquarters.

Dr. Carol M. Ashton was awarded a five-year program grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality entitled, "Racial and Ethnic Variations in Medical Interactions" toward the end of FY00. This program award, consisting of six projects and three cores, will assess the extent to which remediable problems in doctor-patient communication result in racial and ethnic variations in the use of medical services and in health outcomes. The leaders of the projects are all Center investigators. Three of the projects are in the data collection stage. Dr. Ashton also received a minority supplement grant from AHRQ entitled, "Variation in Office-Based Treatment of Opiate Abuse." Dr. LeChauncy Woodard is the Co-Principal Investigator for this grant. The 4-year project will focus on evaluating racial and ethnic variations in the impact of recently passed federal legislation enabling physicians to dispense Schedule III, IV, or V drugs for maintenance or detoxification treatment of opiate-addicted patients.

Dr. Marvella E. Ford is conducting a project entitled, "Improving Informed Consent in Diverse Populations," funded by the NIH for three years. The objective of this study is to identify factors associated with improved comprehension and recall of the information contained in informed consent. The study is in the data collection phase.

Dr. Robert Morgan is conducting a three year project funded by the National Institutes of Health entitled, "Medicare + Choice and Minority Elderly." This study has two broad objectives. First, we will determine individual level characteristics related to M+C plan enrollment among elderly White, Black, and Hispanic Medicare beneficiaries, whether the factors which elderly Black and Hispanic beneficiaries report as influencing their enrollment in HMOs differ from those that influence elderly White Medicare beneficiaries, and whether elderly Black and Hispanic beneficiaries enrolled in HMOs differ from HMO enrolled elderly White beneficiaries in terms of their self-reported health, use of health care, and perceived access to care. Second, we will examine the availability of Medicare HMOs and benefit packages for beneficiaries of differing race/ethnic classifications, how HMO enrollment rates are related to race/ethnic classification and range of plan benefits, and how the availability of HMOs and HMO enrollment by different race/ethnic groups changed subsequent to implementation of BBA provisions. This study is in the data collection phase.

Mark Kunik: Chronic Care Models/Systems of Care

Description

Dr. Kunik's primary research focus is improving quality of care for those with chronic illnesses, through use of the Chronic Care Model (CCM). The Chronic Care Model identifies the following elements of a health care system as those which are essential to encouraging high quality chronic disease care: [the community](#), [the health system](#), [self-management support](#), [delivery system design](#), [decision support](#), and [clinical information systems](#). The model provides evidence-based change concepts under each element that are intended to foment productive interactions between active, informed patients and providers with resources and expertise. The CCM has the potential to be applied to a wide range of chronic illnesses and populations.

In particular, Dr. Kunik is interested in how to best address within the CCM the psychological issues that are frequently comorbid with chronic illnesses. Therefore, he is interested specifically in how to best screen for psychologic comorbidity, such as anxiety and depression. Then, once cases are identified, he is interested in finding the best approach for addressing the psychological problems (e.g., case management).

Specifically, he is interested in examining the following questions:

How do you choose the critical elements of the CCM that will be generalizable across settings?

How do you implement the CCM in specific settings?

How do you show efficacy? (e.g., If processes are the unit of analysis, how do you show improvement in processes? What are the other outcome measurements?)

What are the best self-management approaches? Can they be enriched to address (e.g., prevent and treat) psychological problems common in chronic illnesses?

Can screening and referral (or case management) for those with concurrent psychological problems be incorporated into the chronic care model?

Although these questions can be addressed within any chronic illness, he believes that the best opportunities exist in dementia, heart disease, liver disease, and Parkinson's disease.

Goals

To apply for the following programs:

- Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC)
- Dementia Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI)
- Intervention and Practice Research Infrastructure Program (IP-RISP)
- To raise monies from the BCM Dept of Psychiatry to recruit researchers with like interests (e.g., chronic care, dementia) and to support infrastructure

Links to Center's Strategic Plan

Impact (Goal 1): By applying the CCM to psychologic comorbidities in several different chronic diseases, the areas of interest of several Team Leaders can be incorporated, making this research agenda more easily applicable to more people. This research agenda will provide ample opportunities for the involvement of other researchers, because the underlying framework (the CCM) can be used with virtually any chronic disease. Inherent in the application of the CCM is the notion of quality of care and positively impacting patients and clinicians alike. By identifying the best methods of screening for psychologic comorbidities in patients with chronic diseases, this agenda will impact other researchers and clinicians, by giving them enhanced methods of screening, which can enhance research by identifying target populations and improve treatment for patients by identifying the candidates who have psychologic comorbidities and are in need of treatment. Identifying the best methods for how to best manage these comorbidities has the potential to change policy, improve the quality of care that clinicians can offer their patients, and provide a framework for other researchers to follow in the investigation of psychologic comorbidities in other chronic illnesses. If funding were achieved for a QUERI, GRECC, or an IP-RISP, then the potential impact would be even greater, for they would provide substantial support for further research and/or translation efforts.

Translation (Goal 2): If any of the aforementioned program applications were successful, the Center would gain a new program that focused on translation that targeted one or more health condition(s). It would also provide new funding for translation research efforts and create new infrastructure. The Dementia QUERI would build upon the lessons about translation learned from the Chronic Heart Failure QUERI to translate clinical research findings and recommendations into practice within the VA, further developing ideas and methods about translation. The IP-RISP is designed to expand partnerships between clinical settings and academic institutions to facilitate the translation of state-of-the-art interventions into practice clinically, identifying factors that have the potential to improve quality of care and achieve optimal outcomes. The GRECC is intended to advance and integrate research, education, and clinical achievements in geriatrics into the total VA healthcare system, thus translating research into clinical practice within the VA and providing opportunities to disseminate results to both other researchers and the public at large.

Development (Goal 3): By choosing a broadly applicable area of interest and inviting other Team Leaders to participate in research utilizing the CCM, it provides me with an opportunity to mentor others in my area of interest and take on a leadership role in representing their interests and supporting their career development. If any of the aforementioned program applications were successful, it would provide the resources necessary to recruit new researchers and support research in the area of interest by Team Leaders. They would also provide an opportunity for me to develop my own leadership skills and prepare me to assume a role of greater leadership in the future.

Current Center projects related to chronic care models include:

Dr. Mark Kunik is conducting a four-year IIR study awarded from the Department of Veterans Affairs titled, "A Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention for Depression and Anxiety in COPD." This proposal describes a multi-site, randomized control trial designed to examine the efficacy of manual based CBT. The study is in the data collection phase.

Dr. Mark Kunik is conducting a four-year IIR project awarded from the Department of Veterans Affairs titled, "Causes and Consequences of Aggressive Behavior in Demented Patients." The specific aims of the study are (1) To determine the incidence rate of aggressive behavior in an inception cohort of adults recently diagnosed with dementia, (2) To determine the antecedents of aggressive behavior in an inception cohort of adults recently diagnosed with dementia, (3) To determine the effects and consequences of aggressive behavior on patients, caregivers, and the health care system. This study is in the data collection phase.

Dr. Tracie Collins is conducting a three-year IIR study awarded from the Department of Veterans Affairs titled, "Process of Care in Peripheral Arterial Disease." The purpose of this study is to examine the association of process of care and the level of risk factor control with adverse limb outcomes in patients with PAD. This study is in the data collection phase.

Dr. Anita Deswal is conducting a two-year IIR project awarded from the Department of Veterans Affairs titled, "Impact of Diastolic Heart Failure on Health Care Utilization." The aims of this study are to: 1) To determine the prevalence, baseline characteristics and racial variation of DHF in veterans with HF, 2) To determine the health care utilization (as measured by hospitalizations, bed-days of care, emergency room/urgent care visits and outpatient clinic use) in patients with DHF as compared to patients with SHF, and its variation according to race, 3) To determine the short-term (six-month and one-year) and long-term (two-year) mortality in patients with DHF as compared to patients with SHF, and its variation according to race, 4) To determine if the use of two classes of medications (ACEI and β -blockers) is associated with a reduction in hospitalizations and mortality in patients with DHF, and whether this effect varies by race. This study is in the data collection phase.

Dr. Michael Johnson was awarded a two year IIR from the Department of Veterans Affairs titled, "Pharmacy Use in Patients with Chronic Heart Failure." The purpose of this project is to examine medication use in a national cohort of patients with chronic heart failure (CHF), and determine the relationship between pharmacy use and cost with inpatient and ambulatory utilization and cost. Although utilization of inpatient and ambulatory services are commonly measured, the relationship of pharmacy use to these measures is unknown, as is the relationship of pharmacy costs to costs in the other two areas. The study is in the data collection phase.

Other significant research projects that do not fit into one of the three areas of research noted above, are highlighted below:

Dr. Laura Petersen received two VA VISN contracts. This research, contracted by the VA, examines the use of risk adjustment based on illness severity for developing capitation methods and rates in the VA system. The correct methodology for resource allocation within the Department of Veterans Affairs Networks (i.e. from the 22 regional networks to individual facilities) is controversial. One of the contracts was with VISNs 5, 6, 9, 12 and 22. Highlights of the findings for this contract include developing a Houston VA DCG model for doing facility-level allocations using clinical input. This project is complete and the next phase of the project began on February 1, 2004 and is in the data collection stage.

Dr. Robert Morgan is conducting a three-year IIR project awarded from the Department of Veterans Affairs titled, "Use of Pharmacy by Medicare Enrolled Veterans." The goal of this study is to examine the association between Medicare managed care enrollment by VA users and pharmacy use and cost in the Veterans Health Administration (VA). This study is in the data collection phase.

Dr. Hashem El-Serag is conducting a two-year awarded from the Department of Veterans Affairs titled, "Outcomes of Veterans with Dual HCV-HIV Infection." The aim of the proposal is to further characterize three large cohorts of veteran patients: one cohort with dual HCV/HIV infection, the second with HCV mono-infection, and the third with HIV mono-infection and to examine the effect of dual HCV/HIV on the *incidence* of several clinically important liver conditions, as well as on *overall mortality*, in comparison to each of HCV mono-infection and HIV mono-infection. This study is in the data collection phase.

Dr. Susan Garber was awarded a four-year multi-site IIR from the Department of Veterans Affairs titled, "Preventing Pressure Ulcers in Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)." The purpose of this project is to identify effective interventions for reducing recurrent pressure ulcers, a severe costly complication in veterans with SCI. The effect of an educational and structured telephone counseling follow-up program on prevention and health care utilization are being evaluated. The study is in the data collection phase.

Dr. Julianne Soucek was awarded a conference grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs titled, "Methodological Issues in Health Services and Outcome Research Conference Grant." The "International Conference on Health Policy Research (ICHPR) 2003: Methodological Issues in Health Services and Outcomes Research," was a scientific conference that focused on the interface between research methodology and health policy. Its specific aim was to create an interface for methodologists and sophisticated health service researchers to exchange and build upon ideas. The conference was sponsored by the Health Policy Statistics Section (HPSS) of the American Statistical Association. This was an extremely important conference for statisticians and other methodologists from the VA HSR&D Service. All of the topics discussed at this meeting were directly applicable to the research done by VA HSR&D investigators. Funding was used to help offset some of the conference costs, and reduce the financial barrier to facilitate broader participation in the conference.

Dr. Maria Suarez-Almazor is conducting a five-year project funded by the National Institutes of Health entitled, "Treatment Adherence in Patients with Rheumatic Disease." The overall objective of this study is to quantify adherence to medical recommendations in patients with RA and SLE from diverse ethnic backgrounds, and to determine which are its predictors and outcomes, with an emphasis on psychosocial factors and medical interaction issues. The study is in the data collection stage.

Dr. Maria Suarez-Almazor is conducting a four-year project funded by the National Institutes of Health titled, "Impact of Patient-Provider Interaction on the Response to Acupuncture." The overall goal of this study is to describe and quantify placebo effects in a trial of acupuncture for osteoarthritis (OA) of the knee. No previous studies have scientifically evaluated the effects of communicative style in providers of alternative and complementary medicine, and the placebo response that may result. The study is in the data collection stage.

Dr. Maria Suarez-Almazor is conducting a five-year project funded by the National Institutes of Health titled, "Cognitive Behavioral Determinants for Knee Replacement." The aims of the proposal are: a) To identify beliefs, expectations and goals of patients undergoing TKA; b) To determine which are appropriate and realistic goals for patients undergoing knee arthroplasty; c)

To develop an instrument to evaluate patient beliefs, expectations and goals in relation to TKA; d) To identify psychosocial and educational barriers to surgical success and patient satisfaction after TKA; e) To evaluate the impact of psychological determinants, and TKA outcomes on health costs; and f) To develop and pilot test a patient-centered, cognitive behavioral and psychoeducational intervention for patients undergoing TKA, with the goal of maximizing functional outcomes and patient satisfaction. The study is in the data collection stage.

Dr. Melinda Stanley was awarded a nine-year study funded by the National Institutes of Health titled, "Treating Late-life GAD in Primary Care." The study objectives are: 1) The impact of CBT on clinical, functional, and satisfaction outcomes will be examined relative to UC at post-treatment, 2) The long-term effects of CBT, relative to UC, will be assessed over a one-year period. Outcomes will assess clinical symptoms, functional status, satisfaction, and service utilization, 3) A secondary aim of the project is to examine predictors of treatment response at post-treatment and follow-up. Potential predictors include medical comorbidity, pretreatment severity of anxiety and depression, social support, treatment expectancy and credibility, and adherence with treatment recommendations. The study is in the data collection phase.

The Center has many career development awardees from various funding agencies. The following Center investigators receive career development award funding from VA HSR&D: Lynn Snow, PhD, Paul Haidet, MD, MPH, and Ursula Braun, MD (Research Career Development Award); Hashem El-Serag, MD, MPH and Rebecca Beyth, MD (Advanced Research Career Development Award); Michael Johnson, PhD and Jessica Davila, PhD (MREP Award). Anita Deswal, MD and Tracie Collins, MD, MPH receive research career development award funding from the VA Cooperative Studies program. Dr. Thomas Giordano, MD is a NIH K23 Career Development Awardee. Dr. Laura Petersen is a Generalist Physician Faculty Scholar funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

In December 2003, we were notified the HSR&D Service decided to close the CHF Quality Enhancement Research Initiative and to re-compete it. Our Center had led the CHF QUERI since 1998, under Dr. Ashton, Dr. Wray and Dr. Beyth.

4.1 Research Projects and Programs (Table 3)

Funded Research Projects and Programs Houston Center of Excellence

Agency ID	Project Title	VA Investigator - Role	Type / Source	Current FY Amount	Total Amount	Start	End Date	Status
HSR&D								
AIA 04-336	Associate Investigator Awardee - Cully	J. Cully PhD M Ed BS - Awardee	HSR&D	\$84,914	\$169,828	10/2003	9 /2006	Career Award
BTI 02-233	Evaluating a Bio-Terrorism Preparedness Campaign for Veterans	N. Dunn PhD MS BA - PI	HSR&D	\$6,398	\$23,503	7 /2003	6 /2006	Data Collection
CRS 02-164	Colorectal Cancer Care Outcomes Research and Quality Surveillance Data System	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - Co-INV	Medical Care	\$25,698	\$0	7 /2003	6 /2008	Start Up Activities
ECI 20-016	Cost and Effectiveness of End Stage Renal Disease Care	G. M. Dolson MD - Site PI	HSR&D	\$2,903	\$0	1 /2001	9 /2004	Data Collection
ECV 02-254	Physician-Patient Communication in Patients with Chronic Heart Failure	H. S. Gordon MD SB - PI A. Deswal MD MPH MBBS - Co-INV M. E. Ford PhD MS MSW - Co-INV P. A. Kelly PhD MBA BS - Co-INV J. Soucek PhD - Biostatistician	HSR&D	\$82,450	\$1,490,105	5 /2004	6 /2009	Start Up Activities
IIR 00-097	A Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention for Depression and Anxiety in COPD	M. E. Kunik MD MPH - PI J. Soucek PhD - Co-INV N. P. Wray MD MPH - Co-INV A. Snow PhD - Consultant	HSR&D	\$223,783	\$896,900	1 /2002	1 /2006	Data Collection
IIR 01-151	Preventing Pressure Ulcers in Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)	S. Garber MA BS - PI	HSR&D	\$177,987	\$1,974,900	7 /2003	6 /2007	Data Collection
IIR 01-159	Causes and Consequences of Aggressive Behavior in Demented Patients	M. E. Kunik MD MPH - PI C. M. Ashton MD MPH - Co-INV J. Davila PhD MS BS - Co-INV M. L. Moffett PhD MA BBA - Co-INV R. O. Morgan PhD - Co-INV A. Snow PhD - Co-INV	HSR&D	\$268,625	\$1,109,500	7 /2003	6 /2007	Data Collection

**Funded Research Projects and Programs
Houston Center of Excellence**

Agency ID	Project Title	VA Investigator - Role	Type / Source	Current FY Amount	Total Amount	Start	End Date	Status
HSR&D								
IIR 01-180	Process of Care in Peripheral Arterial Disease	T. C. Collins MD MPH - C. M. Ashton MD MPH - Co-INV R. J. Beyth MD MS - Co- INV N. J. Petersen PhD - Co- INV M. E. Suarez-Almazor MD PhD - Co-INV	HSR&D	\$112,050	\$444,690	10/2002	9 /2005	Data Collection
IIR 02-081	Use of VA Pharmacy by Medicare Enrolled Veterans	R. O. Morgan PhD - PI J. Davila PhD MS BS - Co-INV M. L. Johnson PhD - Co- INV L. A. Petersen MD MPH - Co-INV I. I. Wei DrPH MS BA - Biostatistician	HSR&D	\$290,975	\$871,900	7 /2003	6 /2006	Data Collection
IIR 02-082	Impact of Diastolic Heart Failure on Health Care Utilization and Outcomes	A. Deswal MD MPH MBBS - PI R. J. Beyth MD MS - Co- INV N. J. Petersen PhD - Biostatistician	HSR&D	\$160,225	\$319,100	7 /2003	6 /2005	Data Collection
IIR 02-083	Pharmacy Use in Patients with Chronic Heart Failure	M. L. Johnson PhD - PI J. A. Campbell MS - Co- INV A. Deswal MD MPH MBBS - Co-INV M. L. Moffett PhD MA BBA - Co-INV N. J. Petersen PhD - Co- INV	HSR&D	\$237,200	\$470,900	3 /2004	2 /2006	Analysis
IIR 02-224	A Culturally Sensitive Values-Guided Aid for End of Life Decision-Making	U. K. Braun MD MPH - PI C. M. Ashton MD MPH - Co-INV R. J. Beyth MD MS - Co- INV M. E. Ford PhD MS MSW - Co-INV R. O. Morgan PhD - Co- INV	HSR&D	\$126,542	\$861,762	4 /2004	3 /2008	Data Collection
IIR 02-293	Outcomes of Veterans with Dual HCV-HIV Infection	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - PI T. P. Giordano MD BS - Co-INV J. Soucek PhD - Biostatistician	HSR&D	\$110,100	\$216,400	7 /2003	6 /2005	Data Collection

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Agency ID	Project Title	VA Investigator - Role	Type / Source	Current FY Amount	Total Amount	Start	End Date	Status
HSR&D								
IIR 20-052	Medicare HMO Enrollment and VA Use by Minority and Low Income Veterans	R. O. Morgan PhD - PI M. M. Byrne PhD - Co- L. A. Petersen MD MPH - Co-INV	HSR&D	\$119,800	\$758,628	10/2000	3 /2004	Final Report Preparation
MRP 02-083	MREP	M. L. Johnson PhD - Awardee	HSR&D	\$118,668	\$320,316	1 /2003	12/2005	Career Award
MRP 03-134	MREP	J. Davila PhD MS BS - Awardee	HSR&D	\$99,642	\$316,638	7 /2003	6 /2006	Career Award
RCD 00-013	RCD - Clinical Outcomes and Resource Utilization in Gastrointestinal Disease	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - Awardee	HSR&D	\$225,949	\$562,016	1 /2001	12/2006	Career Award
RCD 00-030	RCD - Understanding Ethnic Variations in Physician-Patient Communication	P. Haidet MD MPH - Awardee	HSR&D	\$173,155	\$442,552	7 /2001	6 /2006	Career Award
RCD 01-008	RCD - Improvement in Quality of Care of Demented Nursing Home Residents: Pain Management Approaches	A. Snow PhD - Awardee	HSR&D	\$107,699	\$264,174	7 /2002	6 /2005	Career Award
RCD 02-029	RCD	U. K. Braun MD MPH - Awardee	HSR&D	\$189,855	\$572,811	7 /2003	6 /2006	Career Award
RCD 02-184	RCD	R. J. Beyth MD MS - Awardee	HSR&D	\$169,162	\$625,188	7 /2003	6 /2006	Career Award
RCD 97-319	RCD - Understanding and Eliminating Racial/Ethnic Variations in Health Care-Advanced Career Development	H. S. Gordon MD SB - Awardee	HSR&D	\$177,088	\$477,064	7 /1998	9 /2004	Career Award

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Agency ID	Project Title	VA Investigator - Role	Type / Source	Current FY Amount	Total Amount	Start	End Date	Status
HSR&D								
SDR 01-044	The Expedient Psychometric Education Research Team (EXPERT)	K. J. O'Malley PhD MS BS - PI N. P. Wray MD MPH - Co-PI C. M. Ashton MD MPH - Co-INV K. F. Cook PhD MA - Co-INV M. E. Ford PhD MS MSW - Co-INV R. O. Morgan PhD - Co-INV A. Snow PhD - Co-INV	HSR&D	\$0	\$536,042	7 /2001	6 /2004	Final Report Preparation
XVA 33-079	VA Colorectal Cancer Pilot	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - PI	HSR&D	\$1,263	\$15,000	9 /2004	8 /2005	Start Up Activities
Other VA								
703-03	Pain Management Barriers and Facilitators in the Nursing Home	A. Snow PhD - PI	MIRREC	\$17,568	\$20,000	1 /2004	12/2004	Data Collection
CRCD 712B	Evaluation of Outcomes and New Therapeutic Strategies for Diastolic Heart Failure	A. Deswal MD MPH MBBS - Awardee	VA Cooperative Studies Program	\$195,987	\$597,334	1 /2004	12/2006	Career Award
CRCD 712B	Understanding Racial Variations in Response to Drug Therapy for Heart Failure	A. Deswal MD MPH MBBS - Awardee	VA Cooperative Studies Program	\$180,819	\$527,448	1 /2001	12/2003	Career Award
CRCD 735	An Intervention Program for Peripheral Arterial Disease	T. C. Collins MD MPH - Awardee	VA Cooperative Studies Program	\$165,951	\$520,860	1 /2004	12/2006	Career Award
XVA 33-048	Applying DCG's to facility level budgets in VISNs 5,6,9,12 and 22	L. A. Petersen MD MPH - PI K. C. Pietz PhD MS BA - Biostatistician	VISN	\$87,101	\$257,550	2 /2003	1 /2004	Completed
XVA 33-053	VA Medicare Data Merge Initiative	R. O. Morgan PhD - PI	VIRec	\$2,500	\$7,500	10/2002	9 /2005	Analysis
XVA 33-059	VERA DBAF Phase VI - Risk Adjusted VERA Work Group: Assessing Strategies for Risk-Adjusting VERA-10 Classes	L. A. Petersen MD MPH - PI K. C. Pietz PhD MS BA - Biostatistician	VERA	\$213,832	\$213,832	10/2003	9 /2004	Final Report Preparation

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Agency ID	Project Title	VA Investigator - Role	Type / Source	Current FY Amount	Total Amount	Start	End Date	Status
Other VA								
XVA 33-061	Methodological Issues in Health Services and Outcome Research Conference Grant	J. Soucek PhD - PI	HSR&D Conference Grant	\$20,336	\$22,200	9 /2003	8 /2004	Supplemental Funding
XVA 33-067	Designing Capitation Systems for Improving Health Care Quality in VA Networks 6, 9, 11,	L. A. Petersen MD MPH - PI K. C. Pietz PhD MS BA - Biostatistician	VISN 6,9,11 & 12	\$225,227	\$345,824	2 /2004	1 /2005	Data Collection
Federal Non-VA								
15-535	Analysis of SEER-Medicare Data on Hepatocellular Carcinoma	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - PI	National Cancer	\$20,614	\$26,040	10/2002	9 /2004	Completed
1-9005	Understanding Factors Related to Prostate, Lung, and Colorectal Cancer Screening among African American Men	M. E. Ford PhD MS MSW - PI	Department of Defense	\$28,599	\$168,005	2 /2002	8 /2005	Manuscripts
25-512	The AAMEN Project II: Retaining African American Men in the Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian (PLCO) Cancer Screening Trial	M. E. Ford PhD MS MSW - PI	National Cancer	\$0	\$67,030	2 /2002	9 /2005	Manuscripts
56-338	Department of Molecular Virology and Microbiology Pilot Funds	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - PI	National Institute of Health	\$11,801	\$20,000	3 /2004	2 /2005	Data Collection
58-862	Global Gene Expression in Barrett's	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - PI	NIH	\$15,198	\$15,717	6 /2003	5 /2005	Data Collection
79-689	HMO Cancer Research Network (CRN) Increasing Effectiveness of Cancer Control Interventions-Survey Methods Expert Team	M. E. Ford PhD MS MSW - PI	National Institutes of Health	\$8,231	\$33,679	3 /2003	2 /2007	Data Collection

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Agency ID	Project Title	VA Investigator - Role	Type / Source	Current FY Amount	Total Amount	Start	End Date	Status
Federal Non-VA								
CDC 01-013	Depression Self-Management for Women with Disabilities	N. J. Petersen PhD - Biostatistician	Centers for Disease Control	\$8,616	\$20,464	9 /2001	9 /2004	Analysis
NIH 67-505	HIV, Race and Survival in the Highly Active Therapy Era	T. P. Giordano MD BS - Awardee	National Institutes of Health	\$182,730	\$829,457	12/2002	11/2007	Career Award
P01 HS10876-01	Racial & Ethnic Variation in Medical Interactions (EXCEED)	C. M. Ashton MD MPH - T. C. Collins MD MPH - Co-INV H. S. Gordon MD SB - Co-INV P. Haidet MD MPH - Co- INV D. H. Kuykendall PhD MBA BA - Co-INV K. J. O'Malley PhD MS BS - Co-INV D. A. Paterniti PhD - Co- INV J. Soucek PhD - Co-INV M. E. Suarez-Almazor MD PhD - Co-INV N. P. Wray MD MPH - Co-INV	AHRQ	\$1,143,474	\$5,281,166	9 /2000	8 /2005	Data Collection
P01 HS10876-02S1	Variation in Office-Based Treatment of Opiate Abuse - Supplement to Race Grant	C. M. Ashton MD MPH - L. D. Woodard MD MPH - Co-PI P. Haidet MD MPH - Co- INV R. O. Morgan PhD - Co- INV J. Soucek PhD - Co-INV	AHRQ	\$207,852	\$857,996	9 /2001	8 /2005	Data Collection
R01 01-441	Impact of Patient-Provider Interaction on the Response to Acupuncture	M. E. Suarez-Almazor MD PhD - PI K. C. Pietz PhD MS BA - Biostatistician	NIH	\$617,298	\$1,978,890	9 /2002	8 /2006	Data Collection
R01 07-744	Culture Bias in Testing Expressive Ability in Dementia	R. O. Morgan PhD - Co- INV	NIH	\$9,876	\$41,788	6 /2001	5 /2004	Data Collection
R01 19-284	Medicare + Choice and Minority	R. O. Morgan PhD - PI J. Davila PhD MS BS - Co-INV L. A. Petersen MD MPH - Co-INV	NIA	\$520,492	\$995,420	9 /2002	8 /2005	Data Collection

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Agency ID	Project Title	VA Investigator - Role	Type / Source	Current FY Amount	Total Amount	Start	End Date	Status
Federal Non-VA								
R01 47-858	Treatment Adherence in Patients with Rheumatic Disease	M. E. Suarez-Almazor MD PhD - PI C. M. Ashton MD MPH - Co-INV M. A. Kallen PhD MPH MA - Co-INV K. J. O'Malley PhD MS BS - Co-INV J. Soucek PhD - Co-INV	NIH	\$384,778	\$1,543,771	4 /2002	3 /2007	Data Collection
R01 48-662	Cognitive Behavioral Determinants for Knee Replacement	M. E. Suarez-Almazor MD PhD - PI M. L. Moffett PhD MA BBA - Co-INV M. A. Kallen PhD MPH MA - Biostatistician	NIAMS	\$268,334	\$1,226,337	6 /2003	5 /2008	Data Collection
R01 53-932	Treating Late-life GAD in Primary Care	M. A. Stanley PhD - PI M. E. Kunik MD MPH - Co-INV	National Institute of Mental Health	\$34,131	\$985,770	9 /2004	8 /2007	Data Collection
R01 63-229	Genetic Basis of Platelet Hyperfunction (Bray)	J. Soucek PhD - Biostatistician	NIH	\$13,309	\$63,371	8 /2000	7 /2005	Data Collection
R01 68-148	The Epidemiology of Barrett's Esophagus in Children and Adolescents	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - Co-INV P. A. Richardson PhD MS BA - Biostatistician	National Institutes of Health	\$7,385	\$88,897	8 /2004	7 /2006	Start Up Activities
R01 70-794	Improving Anti-Thrombotic Use in Stroke Prevention	R. J. Beyth MD MS - PI C. M. Ashton MD MPH - Co-INV A. Deswal MD MPH MBBS - Co-INV J. Soucek PhD - Biostatistician	NHLBI	\$421,050	\$1,785,490	9 /2002	8 /2007	Data Collection
R01 88-069	Improving Informed Consent in Diverse	M. E. Ford PhD MS MSW - PI N. J. Petersen PhD - Biostatistician	NIH	\$175,000	\$525,000	4 /2001	3 /2005	Data Collection
R01 DMID-02	Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit (VTEU-Keitel-Part A)	N. J. Petersen PhD - Co-INV	NIH	\$19,374	\$98,153	6 /2002	5 /2007	Data Collection
R03 22-144	Cultural Differences in End-of-Life Decision	U. K. Braun MD MPH - PI	National Institutes of Health	\$40,880	\$50,000	5 /2003	4 /2005	Analysis

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Agency ID	Project Title	VA Investigator - Role	Type / Source	Current FY Amount	Total Amount	Start	End Date	Status
Federal Non-VA								
R04 61-880	Cost Analysis of Secondary Conditions in Disabled Women	R. O. Morgan PhD - Co-INV N. J. Petersen PhD - Co-INV	Center for Disease Control	\$17,896	\$747,538	9 /2000	9 /2004	Analysis
XNV 33-050	Faculty Development Workshops: Teaching the Human Dimensions of Care	P. Haidet MD MPH - PI	Arthur Vining Davis Foundation	\$5,234	\$30,000	7 /2004	6 /2006	Supplemental Funding
XNV 33-054	Psychometric Evaluation of Cancer HRQOL Data	K. F. Cook PhD MA - PI P. A. Kelly PhD MBA BS - Co-INV D. H. Kuykendall PhD MBA BA - Co-INV	National Cancer	\$60,000	\$60,000	10/2003	9 /2004	Manuscripts
Non-Federal								
006-03	Outcome Assessment in Scleroderma	M. E. Suarez-Almazor MD PhD - PI K. J. O'Malley PhD MS BS - Co-INV	Scleroderma Foundation	\$89,509	\$138,629	1 /2003	12/2004	Data Collection
D16-HP-00036	Clinicians Perceptions of the Dimensions of Patients' Problems	H. S. Gordon MD SB - Consultant	HRSA	\$3,701	\$9,000	11/2000	10/2004	Manuscripts
RWJ 45-444	Structuring Payment Systems to Promote Healthcare Quality	L. A. Petersen MD MPH - PI N. P. Wray MD MPH - Co-INV	Robert Wood Johnson	\$124,563	\$300,000	7 /2002	6 /2006	Career Award
XNV 2004-0245	Current Patterns of NSAID Use and GI Outcomes in the Department of Veterans Affairs	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - PI	Pfizer	\$3,967	\$15,688	7 /2004	6 /2005	Analysis
XNV 33-024	Racial Variation in the Epidemiology and Outcomes of Peripheral Arterial Disease	T. C. Collins MD MPH -	Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	\$25,202	\$365,187	1 /2000	6 /2004	Training Program
XNV 33-037	Hypertension, Hyperlipidemia & Diabetes Treatment and Outcomes: A Study of Patients in the VA	M. L. Johnson PhD - PI R. J. Beyth MD MS - Co-INV K. C. Pietz PhD MS BA - Co-INV	Pfizer	\$14,005	\$189,900	6 /2002	5 /2004	Manuscripts

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Agency ID	Project Title	VA Investigator - Role	Type / Source	Current FY Amount	Total Amount	Start	End Date	Status
Non-Federal								
XNV 33-038	The Effect of HCV Co-Infection on the Clinical Course of HIV-Infected Patients	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - PI P. A. Richardson PhD MS BA - Biostatistician	Schering Pharmaceuticals	\$14,107	\$55,190	8 /2002	12/2004	Completed
XNV 33-047	Cohort Study	N. J. Petersen PhD - PI	Pfizer	\$61,640	\$141,875	5 /2003	4 /2005	Analysis
XNV 33-049	The Prevalence of Erosive Esophagitis and Suspected Barrett's Esophagus in Children	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - PI	American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy	\$8,187	\$15,000	1 /2003	12/2003	Completed
XNV 33-051	Teaching Humanism at the Bedside: Observations of Expert Teachers	P. Haidet MD MPH - Consultant	Schwartz Center	\$2,505	\$3,000	8 /2003	7 /2005	Supplemental Funding
XNV 33-052	Relationship-Centered Care Initiative	P. Haidet MD MPH - Consultant	Regenstrief Institute	\$7,202	\$36,000	9 /2003	8 /2008	Supplemental Funding
XNV 33-055	Baylor College of Medicine-Department of Surgery Funds	R. L. Bush MD AB - PI	Department of Surgery-Baylor College of Medicine	\$26,164	\$30,000	7 /2003	6 /2005	Start Up Activities
XNV 33-057	The Prevalence of Non-Ulcer Dyspepsia (NUD) in the United States: A Multiethnic Population Based Study	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - PI	Novartis	\$19,449	\$26,159	2 /2004	1 /2005	Analysis
XNV 33-058	The Prevalence and Effects of Adherence to ACG Guidelines for NSAID Prescription in the VA	N. Abraham MD MSc BA - PI	American College of Gastroenterology	\$8,204	\$32,458	7 /2004	6 /2005	Start Up Activities
XNV 33-059	Investigating Childhood Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease as a Risk Factor for Complicated GERD in Adults	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - PI	Janssen Pharmaceuticals	\$7,765	\$30,706	7 /2004	6 /2005	Data Collection

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Agency ID	Project Title	VA Investigator - Role	Type / Source	Current FY Amount	Total Amount	Start	End Date	Status
Non-Federal								
XNV 33-060	Investigating Childhood Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease as a Risk Factor for Complicated GERD in Adults	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - PI	TAP Pharmaceuticals	\$5,281	\$31,205	8 /2004	7 /2005	Start Up Activities
XNV 33-061	Outcomes of Therapy for Cholangiocarcinoma in the United States: A Population-based Study	Y. Shaib MD MPH BS - PI	American College of Gastroenterology	\$4,549	\$18,000	7 /2004	6 /2005	Data Collection
Training Programs								
OAA 97-004	Training Program for Fellows (post Ph.D.) at Center of Excellence - Houston	C. M. Ashton MD MPH - J. R. Kramer PhD MPH BA - INV C. Teal PhD MA BA - INV	OAA	\$110,200	\$1,038,563	10/1993	9 /2007	Training Program
Medical Care								
CHF 98-001	QUERI on Chronic Heart Failure	C. M. Ashton MD MPH - QUERI Research Coordinator R. J. Beyth MD MS - PI A. Deswal MD MPH MBBS - Co-INV M. L. Johnson PhD - Co-INV M. J. York PhD MA BS - Co-INV N. J. Petersen PhD - Biostatistician	Medical Care	\$228,000	\$1,366,078	6 /1998	6 /2004	QUERI Center
CRS 02-164	Evaluating a Bio-Terrorism Preparedness Campaign for Veterans	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - Co-INV	Medical Care	\$1,752	\$15,000	7 /2003	6 /2008	Start Up Activities
IMV 04-049	Implementation of ALLHAT Results in VAH	C. M. Ashton MD MPH -	Medical Care	\$47,600	\$47,600	1 /2004	6 /2004	Final Report Preparation
IMV 04-050	Implementation of Coordinated Care Program for HF in VHA	R. J. Beyth MD MS - PI	Medical Care	\$45,850	\$45,850	1 /2004	6 /2004	Analysis

5 Research Products and Dissemination

The focus of the communications department in fiscal year 2004 has been on two goals that are at the core of the Center's strategic plan. These goals are: 1) HCQCUS research efforts have impact on science, policy, practice and patients; and 2) HCQCUS research findings are translated and disseminated into practice. The HCQCUS Chief Communications Officer is Matt D. Price, MS. Mr. Price is mentored by and reports directly to HCQCUS Chief Operating Officer, W. Keith Neeley, MBA. Together, Mr. Neeley and Mr. Price continue to redirect the department's vision toward translation and dissemination efforts that have impact and develop the necessary business development opportunities to fund and nurture these efforts which are at the heart of the department's mission:

"The department is responsible for creating timely and accurate communications among our internal customers and communities and for communicating our outstanding research and scientific excellence to our external customers and communities."

Translation and Dissemination

Under the coordination of HCQCUS Translation and Dissemination Manager, Barbara Kimmel, MS, the communications department has begun to develop a framework for the research knowledge transfer process. There are five questions (described by John N. Lavis, et. al., in their article, "How Can Research Organizations More Effectively Transfer Research Knowledge to Decision Makers?" published in *The Milbank Quarterly*, Vol. 81, No. 2, 2003) that we must ask as we begin to develop this framework, or strategy, in order to be successful in our efforts to assist the investigators to communicate their research results. They are:

1. What should be transferred to decision makers (**message**)?
2. To whom should research knowledge be transferred (**target audience**)?
3. By whom should research knowledge be transferred (**messenger**)?
4. How should research knowledge be transferred (**knowledge-transfer processes and supporting communications infrastructure**)?
5. "With what effect" should research knowledge be transferred (**evaluation**)?

Our four target audiences are:

- general public/service recipients (e.g., citizens, patients and clients)
- service providers (e.g., clinicians)
- managerial decision makers (e.g., managers in hospitals, community organizations, and private businesses)
- policy decision makers at the federal, state and local levels

In last year's annual report, we discussed that an integral part of translation and dissemination is the evaluation phase that addresses the effect or impact of the research knowledge transfer process. We introduced a system to measure both journal and article impact. This year, we have begun to connect this system of measuring impact with existing internal and external database systems, including ART, to also measure manuscript productivity during the entire life cycle of the manuscript. The life cycle begins when the investigator meets with the Translation and Dissemination Manager during initial project funding discussions and plans for future manuscripts and continues to the point during the life cycle when journal and article impact factors are measured during the evaluation phase.

This new system will allow for the measurement of critical milestones along the manuscript life cycle that Center leadership has asked to be reported. These milestones include: 1) manuscripts in preparation; 2) manuscripts submitted; 3) manuscripts accepted/in press; and 4) manuscripts published. Further, this improved system will specifically connect manuscripts to project funding and with the help of the Translation and Dissemination Manager, will help identify “hot” topics in advance of publication so that Center leadership and local and national VA public affairs officials are alerted. Finally, this system will not only allow evaluators to see the direction of the researcher’s career, research output, and impact indicators, but it will assist the communications department in reporting the progress and touting the achievements of its investigators and the Center that extends far beyond solely manuscript productivity, as shown in the translation and dissemination model above.

EXCEED: A Case Study in Translation and Dissemination at HCQCUS

The Houston-EXCEED (EXcellence Centers to Eliminate Ethnic/Racial Disparities) program is a prime example of the Center’s research translation and dissemination plan in action. The EXCEED program is a 5-year (09/2000-08/2005), federally funded research initiative charged with examining variations in doctor-patient communication as a potential driver for ethnic and racial disparities in the medical interaction. Under the directorship of its principal investigator, Carol Ashton, MD, MPH, the EXCEED program’s research translation and dissemination efforts, operating within the framework established by the Center, have been multi-faceted and encompass the areas of 1) information development; 2) knowledge transfer; and 3) capacity-building. Target audiences include general public/lay-audiences, service providers, organizational decision-makers, and policy decision-makers.

Translating program research findings in the area of doctor-patient communication into practice; into a usable product for the benefit of the community, the EXCEED program developed the *How to Talk to Your Doctor* program (information development). This free, 2-hour educational forum teaches healthcare consumers in and around the Houston and greater Houston metropolitan areas basic communication skills for the medical interaction (knowledge transfer) as a means of effectuating an empowered, activated patient thereby, potentially, improving overall health outcomes (capacity building). At the local level, to date, the EXCEED program has conducted 25 forums, reaching in excess of 600 participants. To broaden their reach at the local level, the EXCEED program recently secured funding for including the fundamentals of their *How to Talk to Your Doctor* program in a health information kiosk program (manual and electronic) that operates throughout the city of Houston providing health information in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Korean. In an effort to further disseminate the *How to Talk to Your Doctor* program, all program materials are available for free-downloads off our website, accessible via a link on the HCQCUS website (see External Communications).

This web access has secured inquiries at the national and international levels about adopting (for example: running a pilot of the *How to Talk to Your Doctor* program in Tallahassee Florida through Florida A&M University) or adapting (for example: incorporating the program into adult learning curriculums at Harvard’s National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy) the program into other communities and includes a recent inclusion in the government’s education database, ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center) at the request of the U.S. Department of Education. The reach of the *How to Talk to Your Doctor* program is further extended through various newspaper articles (for example: *The Skanner* newspaper in Portland, Oregon ran a full-page advertisement of the *How to Talk to Your Doctor* program as part of a month-long health series hosted by the African American Health Coalition) and local radio spots (for example: interviews on KBXX and KTRH about the importance of doctor-patient communication in celebration of the *2004-Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day*).

To further advance the health disparities agenda of the EXCEED research program, based on research findings, each of the projects within the program are in the process of developing a translational product for implementation at the community level. Some examples include the Osteoarthritis research project which is developing a decision aid to assist minority patients in healthcare decisions; the breast cancer project, which, through an identification of access barriers to mammogram follow-up in minority women, are developing a template to increase early detection of breast cancer thus increasing survival rates; and the peripheral arterial disease (PAD) project which is developing an intervention that can potentially be used in private practice to increase the use of exercise therapy in patients with PAD thus improving survival rates and overall health outcomes. Findings from each of the seven research projects are disseminated through various media including radio (KTSU, KCOH Spanish Radio, etc.), presentations to lay and scientific audiences, and peer-reviewed journal publications.

Through the efforts of both MEDVAMC's and Baylor College of Medicine's public affairs offices, the EXCEED program's dissemination efforts is being further enhanced through television, radio, newspaper, and other media-related spots. It is expected that increased visibility will facilitate access to policy makers at the federal, state, and local levels. In fact, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee's office recently expressed an interest in our research program requesting additional information about our research agenda. The EXCEED program also participates in local health-fairs, maintains board representation on various health coalitions (including the African American Health Coalition, the Asian American Health Coalition, etc.) and actively seeks out and participates in collaborative ventures that advance translation and dissemination of research findings into practice (including Texas Department of Health Community Infrastructure Building project, East-End Healthy Children's Collaborative, Community Doula Program, etc.).

Research translation and dissemination remains a primary objective within the Houston-EXCEED program and, operating within the Center's established translation and dissemination framework, it ensures that its research continues to be amenable to translatable products for the benefit of the community-at-large and that dissemination efforts are diverse and expansive so as to reach the greatest variety and numbers of audiences.

External Communications

Communicating science news is important because almost all VA research and staff support is publicly funded. Research conducted at the Center is disseminated in top medical and research journals, and at national and international conferences. For fiscal year 2004, the Center investigators published 84 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals, 2 books, 7 book chapters, and 2 technical reports. Publications include research published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* [(34.833 Impact Factor for 2003); the journal with the highest impact factor in internal medicine], *Annals of Internal Medicine* (12.427 Impact Factor for 2003), *American Journal of Gastroenterology* (4.172 Impact Factor for 2003), *Medical Care* [(3.152 Impact Factor for 2003); journal with the highest impact factor in health services research], and the *Journal of General Internal Medicine* (2.809 Impact Factor for 2003).

Our Center investigators are recognized for their insightful and challenging talks at regional, national, and international conferences. There were 65 presentations given and abstracts presented by Center investigators during this reporting period. The HCQCUS GI Research Group of Hashem El-Serag, MD, MPH, Neena S. Abraham, MD, MSc (EPI), Jessica Davila, PhD, Yasser Shaib, MD, MPH and Jennifer Rosenthal-Kramer, PhD presented 16 abstracts related to their academic activity at the Digestive Diseases Week (DDW) held in New Orleans in May 2004. DDW is the largest international gathering of physicians, researchers and academics

in the fields of gastroenterology, hepatology, endoscopy and gastrointestinal surgery. Attendance was over 14,000, with an international attendance of over 50 percent. This year, HCQCUS GI researchers presented in both oral and poster formats, data covering a broad spectrum of research topics including: Barrett's esophagus, colorectal cancer, cholangiocarcinoma, dyspepsia, endoscopic outcomes research, conscious sedation, malignant biliary obstruction, hepatitis C, and hepatocellular cancer. This work has been done in collaboration with researchers from Baylor College of Medicine, elsewhere in the United States, Canada and Europe. This was an exciting opportunity to highlight the productivity of the HCQCUS GI Group and to foster international knowledge transfer. In May 2004, Paul Haidet, MD, MPH presented "Redefining Concordance: Patients' Perceptions of Relational Similarity," one of six of the most highly-rated abstracts among the hundreds submitted during the plenary session of the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) Annual Meeting in Chicago. Further, many HCQCUS project staff members participated in the MEDVAMC Research Day and shared the results of some of their studies with the VA and Texas Medical Center research communities.

International presentations included: Thomas Giordano, MD, MPH, presented "Measuring Adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy in a Diverse Population Using a Visual Analogue Scale (VAS)" at the XV International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand in July, 2004. Maria Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD, presented her poster "Determinants of Treatment Adherence in Patients with Rheumatic Disease" at the Annual European Congress of Rheumatology "EULAR 2004" in Berlin Germany in June 2004 and presented "Ethnic Variations in Preference for Total Knee Replacement in Patients with Osteoarthritis" at the 9th Biennial Meeting of the European Society of Medical Decision Making, also in June 2004, in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Rebecca Beyth, MD, MSc, HCQCUS Associate Director, presented "Prediction Rules for Bleeding on Anticoagulant Therapy" at the 50th Scientific and Standardization Committee (SSC) Meeting of the International Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis in Venice, Italy in July 2004. The "Golden Anniversary" of the SSC invited only the most qualified experts to discuss the hot topics in the field of thrombosis, hemostasis and vascular biology. In September 2004, Ursula Braun, MD, MPH presented "A Preventive Ethics Approach Regarding Over-Treatment at the End-of-Life" at the 3rd Congress of the European Union Geriatric Medicine Society in Vienna, Austria.

In November 2003, Dr. Hashem El-Serag's article, "The Continuing Increase in the Incidence of Hepatocellular Carcinoma in the United States: An Update" found the number of persons newly diagnosed with hepatocellular carcinoma (liver cancer) is rapidly increasing in the United States according to a study published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. The rates of liver cancer have doubled over the past two decades, and the largest increase has been observed during the 1990s. The increase has been observed in men and women and in most racial and ethnic groups. Disturbingly, the study shows an increase in liver cancer among Caucasian men between the ages of 45-65. The study, which was designed to update the recent trends in liver cancer increase, should lead to further studies on the risk factors, screening and management of liver cancer in the United States.

In October 2003, HCQCUS Director Dr. Carol M. Ashton's article, "Hospital Use and Survival Among Veterans Affairs Beneficiaries" showed that quality of care and survival rates among veterans remained constant in the mid-1990s despite a reduction in hospital-based care provided by the VA health care system. The study, reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, was the largest assessment to-date of the impact on veterans of VA's shift from a hospital-based system to one focused on primary and outpatient care. In his editorial of Ashton's article, Dr. Elliott Fisher emphasized that this study notably addresses the relevance of the VA's primary care-based model of managed care to the rest of the U.S. health care system,

in its efforts to improve quality care. Dr. Ashton's article received attention from numerous radio and print media.

Additionally, HCQCUS Associate Director Mark E. Kunik, MD, MPH, garnered much media attention, including Houston television and print media near the time of death of former President Ronald Reagan. Dr. Kunik is the author of the recently published, *Alzheimer's for Dummies* and a award-winning Houston clinician and researcher who is a leading expert on dementia. In addition, Dr. Kunik was the named one of the Nation's "Best Docs" for 2003 by BestDoctors.com, named one of Houston's top doctors by *H Texas* magazine, and received the 2004 South Central MIRECC Education Award. Other award-winning HCQCUS investigators in fiscal year 2004 include: Anita Deswal, MD, MPH who received a Special Contribution Award from VISN 16 for her participation in the Network Research Committee; Pamela Willson, PhD, RN, who received a 2004 Public Health Grant from VHA Public Health Strategic Health Care Group; ALLHAT Implementation Project, led by Carol Ashton, MD, MPH, who received the FY04 Quarter 3 TEAM Award presented by the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center; A. Lynn Snow, PhD, HCQCUS Assistant Director of Education, who received the T.T. Chao Scholar Award from the Baylor College of Medicine, Department of Medicine; and finally and most notably, Dr. Ashton was selected as the recipient of VA's highest honor in health services research, and was presented the 2004 *Under Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Health Services Research*, by HSR&D.

The Houston Veterans Affairs Medical Center co-sponsors and edits the publication, *VA Pride*. This publication serves as an information guide for veterans in southeast Texas and also makes the leap from research to practice and specifically focuses on patients and the public. In fiscal year 2004, the Houston Center for Quality of Care and Utilization Studies was featured in every issue of the periodical, achieving the Center's goal of information dissemination beyond the scientific community, and focus also on the patients and caregivers, vital customers who we support through our research.

The Center's web site, <http://www.hsrh.houston.med.va.gov>, continues to communicate the Center's mission to our external customers and communities and to highlight the Center's history and past accomplishments, current achievements and future goals. This year, the *Research Monitor*, the Center's biannual newsletter featured a significant article, "Impact of Digestive Diseases on Health Services." This timely article focuses on digestive diseases, which rank among the top ten important reasons for morbidity and mortality in the United States, and the impact of these diseases, in terms of cost and diminished health-related quality of life, is immense. For this reason, national media attention also continues to grow on digestive disease-related research.

The communications department also functions as the liaison for media-related activities that include initiating press releases, coordinating interviews with the news media and joining forces with both VA (Houston and national) and Baylor departments of public affairs.

Internal Communications

ePRIDE, our Center's Intranet web site that was implemented in fiscal year 2003 continues to thrive by offering a centralized information source to the Center's staff. The letters that form "PRIDE" are derived from select Center core values: (P) Partnership; (R) Respect; (I) Innovation; (D) Development of our people and the Center; and (E) Excellence. This site, unlike the Internet web site, focuses on internal information dissemination and features: a home page that spotlights significant news and announcements as well as a calendar of events; general department information; policies and procedures; forms and documents; seminars and training;

and a special section with staff photos and bio-sketches. The Intranet web site, which is accessible only by Center staff, has served as an excellent source of information for current staff and as a wonderful orientation tool for new staff. Feedback from Center staff regarding the new site has been overwhelmingly positive.

Other important internal communications accomplishments include the development of our third annual Employee Satisfaction Survey (ESS). The anonymous survey will again be administered electronically this year via our Center's intranet web site in November. In fiscal year 2003, the survey had an astonishing 95 percent response rate and the overall results from the ESS were shared with the entire staff during an all-staff meeting, and periodic updates shared at subsequent all-staff meetings. Specific results and anonymous comments from the survey are shared with the Center's executive and management teams so that corrective action can be taken and opportunities for improvement can be realized. Further, feedback from the survey is used as a part of the ongoing performance development process for all management staff. It is important that we link these opportunities for improvement with actual performance changes. In FY 2003, we received input via the ESS that discussion forums on the HCQCUS Intranet web site would be beneficial to the staff and would lead to increased efficiency in information and idea exchange. During FY 2004, the communications department created discussion forums, based on this input, and although in its start-up phase, this addition to ePRIDE already received positive feedback.

In addition to the ESS, the Center has also developed and launched a highly successful New Employee Orientation program in which members of the executive and management teams introduce new employees to the Center via an informal, yet systematic presentation on a monthly basis. Further, we have created a New Employee Handbook to augment the orientation process.

All-staff meetings, held every six weeks, were initiated in fiscal year 2002, and continue to fill an important communication's role in fiscal year 2004. These meetings are an opportunity for the entire Center staff to gather, share news and important announcements, and be recognized for accomplishments and achievements that took place during the previous six-week period. Twice a year, we have all-staff celebrations that are strictly for bringing everyone together to share in the camaraderie and at one of these celebrations, we present employee awards to thank our staff for their hard work and commitment to our organization.

A critical responsibility of the communications department is to "facilitate the communication between the executive team and the staff." A major contributor to the success of this process is Mathilda Ceaser, administrative assistant to both the chief operations officer and the chief communications officer. Ms. Ceaser's role is to connect these two vital organizational functions so that the result appears transparent and effortless. Mathilda does this with great pride and passion.

At the heart of the communications department is the desire to create communications that accurately and eloquently tell our story, and as such, the chief communications officer holds fast to his personal mission to be "responsible for anticipating the communications needs of our internal and external customers and communities and for ensuring that all communications needs are met and exceeded." Finally, effective June 2004, we share in communicating the pride of our newly named parent institution, the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center, named in honor of the father of modern cardiovascular surgery an internationally-recognized and ingenious medical inventor, innovator, steadfast veteran, gifted and dedicated teacher, premier surgeon, and international medical statesman.

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Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Ruth Bush, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
51. Lin PH, Bush RL, Lumsden AB. Bilateral renal subcapsular hematoma subsequent to seat belt compression. *The Journal of Trauma* 2004; 57: 198.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Ruth Bush, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

52. Lin PH, Bush RL, Lumsden AB. Endovascular rescue of a maldeployed aortic stent-graft causing renal artery occlusion: technical considerations. *Vascular and Endovascular Surgery* 2004; 38: 69-73.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Ruth Bush, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
53. Lin PH, Bush RL, Lumsden AB. Low molecular weight heparin induced priapism. *The Journal of Urology* 2004; 172: 263.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Ruth Bush, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
54. Lin PH, Bush RL, McCoy SA, Felkai D, Pasnelli TK, Nelson JC, Watts K, Lam RC, Lumsden AB. A prospective study of a hand-held ultrasound device in abdominal aortic aneurysm evaluation. *American Journal of Surgery* 2003; 186: 455-459.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Ruth Bush, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
55. Lin PH, Bush RL, Nelson JC, Lam R, Paladugu R, Chen C, Quinn G, Lumsden AB. A prospective evaluation of interrupted nitinol surgical clips in arteriovenous fistula for hemodialysis. *American Journal of Surgery* 2003; 186: 625-630.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Ruth Bush, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
56. Lin PH, Bush RL, Yao Q, Lumsden AB, Chen C. Evaluation of platelet deposition and neointimal hyperplasia of heparin-coated small-caliber ePTFE grafts in a canine femoral artery bypass model. *The Journal of Surgical Research* 2004; 118: 45-52.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Ruth Bush, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

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Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Ruth Bush, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

58. Lin PH, Johnson CK, Pullium JK, Bush RL, Conklin BS, Chen C, Lumsden AB. L-arginine improves endothelial vasoreactivity and reduces thrombogenicity after thrombolysis in experimental deep venous thrombosis. Journal of Vascular Surgery : Official Publication, The Society For Vascular Surgery [And] International Society For Cardiovascular Surgery, North American Chapter 2003; 38: 1396-1403.

Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Ruth Bush, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

59. MacGregor MW, Davidson KW, Rowan P, Barksdale C, MacLean D. The use of defenses and physician health care costs: are physician health care costs lower in persons with more adaptive defense profiles?. Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics 2003; 72: 315-323.

Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Paul Rowan, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

60. Mann DL, Deswal A. Angiotensin-receptor blockade in acute myocardial infarction--a matter of dose. The New England Journal of Medicine 2003; 349: 1963-1965.

Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Anita Deswal, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: CSP 712B

61. Morgan RO, Wei II, Virnig BA. Improving identification of Hispanic males in Medicare: use of surname matching. Medical Care 2004; 42: 810-816.

Project Number: R01 19-284
Project Title: Medicare + Choice and Minority Elderly
PI: Robert O. Morgan, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

62. O'Malley KJ, Roddey TS, Gartsman GM, Cook KF. Outcome expectancies, functional outcomes, and expectancy fulfillment for patients with shoulder problems. *Medical Care* 2004; 42: 139-146.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Kimberly O'Malley, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
63. Petty RE, Southwood TR, Manners P, Baum J, Glass DN, Goldenberg J, He X, Maldonado-Cocco J, Orozco-Alcala J, Prieur AM, Suarez-Almazor ME, Woo P. International League of Associations for Rheumatology classification of juvenile idiopathic arthritis: second revision, Edmonton, 2001. *The Journal of Rheumatology* 2004; 31: 390-392.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Maria Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
64. Rabeneck L, Davila JA, Thompson M, El-Serag HB. Surgical volume and long-term survival following surgery for colorectal cancer in the Veterans Affairs Health-Care System. *The American Journal of Gastroenterology* 2004; 99: 668-675.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Jessica Davila, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
65. Roorda LD, Jones CA, Waltz M, Lankhorst GJ, Bouter LM, van der Eijken JW, Willems WJ, Heyligers IC, Voaklander DC, Kelly KD, Suarez-Almazor ME. Satisfactory cross cultural equivalence of the Dutch WOMAC in patients with hip osteoarthritis waiting for arthroplasty. *Annals of The Rheumatic Diseases* 2004; 63: 36-42.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Maria Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
66. Rowan PJ, Tabasi S, Abdul-Latif M, Kunik ME, El Serag HB. Psychosocial factors are the most common contraindications for antiviral therapy at initial evaluation in veterans with chronic hepatitis. *Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology* 2004; 38: 530-534.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Paul Rowan, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013

67. Searle NS, Haidet P, Kelly PA, Schneider VF, Seidel CL, Richards BF. Team Learning in Medical Education: Initial Experiences at Ten Institutions. *Academic Medicine* 2003; 78: S55-S58.
Project Number: XNV 33-050
Project Title: Faculty Development Workshops: Teaching the Human Dimensions of Care
PI: Paul Haidet, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-030
68. Shahar K, Snow AL, Soucek J, Ashton CM, Kunik M.E.. Cut point definition of agitation. *Clinical Gerontologist* 2004; 27: 15-23.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: A. Lynn Snow, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 01-008
69. Shahar K, Snow AL, Soucek J, Ashton CM, Kunik ME. Cut point definition of agitation. *Clinical Gerontologist* 2004; 27: 15-23.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Neena Abraham, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 01-008
70. Shaib YH, Davila JA, McGlynn K, El Serag HB. Rising incidence of intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma in the United States: a true increase?. *Journal of Hepatology* 2004; 40: 472-477.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Yasser Shaib, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
71. Shaib YH, El-Serag HB. The epidemiology of cholangiocarcinoma. *Seminars in Liver Disease* 2004; 24: 115-125.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Yasser Shaib, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
72. Siffledeen JS, Fedorak RN, Siminoski K, Jen H, Vaudan E, Abraham N, Seinhart H, Greenberg G. Bones and Crohn's: risk factors associated with low bone mineral density in patients with Crohn's disease. *Inflammatory Bowel Diseases* 2004; 10: 220-228.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Neena Abraham, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

73. Snow A.L., Norris M.P., Doody R., Molinari V.A., Orengo C.A., Kunik M.E.. Dementia Deficits Scale: rating self-awareness of deficits.. Alzheimer Disease and Associated Disorders 2004; 18: 22-31.
Project Number: XVA 33-045
Project Title: Supplement for NIH R03 study, "Severely Demented Individuals: Assessing Their Pain
PI: A. Lynn Snow, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 01-008
74. Snow AL, Hovanec L, Brandt J. A controlled trial of aromatherapy for agitation in nursing home patients with dementia. Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine (New York, N.Y.) 2004; 10: 431-437.
Project Number: RCD 01-008
Project Title: RCD - Improvement in Quality of Care of Demented Nursing Home Residents: Pain Management Approaches
PI: A. Lynn Snow, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 01-008
75. Snow AL, Weber JB, O'Malley KJ, Cody M, Beck C, Bruera E, Ashton C, Kunik ME. NOPPAIN: A Nursing Assistant- Administered Pain Assessment Instrument for Use in Dementia. Dementia and Geriatric Cognitive Disorders 2004; 17: 240-246.
Project Number: 703-03
Project Title: Pain Management Barriers and Facilitators in the Nursing Home
PI: A. Lynn Snow, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 01-008
76. Stanley M.A., Diefenbach G.J., Hopko D.R., Novy D., Kunik M.E., Wilson N, Wagener P.. The nature of generalized anxiety in older primary care patients: preliminary findings.. Journal of Psychopathology & Behavioral Assessment 2003; 25: 273-280.
Project Number: R01 53-932
Project Title: Treating Late-life GAD in Primary Care
PI: Melinda A. Stanley, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
77. Suarez-Almazor ME. Patient-physician communication. Current Opinion in Rheumatology 2004; 16: 91-95.
Project Number: P01 HS10876-01
Project Title: Racial & Ethnic Variation in Medical Interactions (EXCEED)
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

78. Suarez-Almazor ME, Drummond M. Regulatory issues and economic efficiency. The Journal of Rheumatology. Supplement 2003; 68: 5-7.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Maria Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
79. Tran AN, Haidet P, Street RL, O'Malley KJ, Martin F, Ashton CM. Empowering communication: a community-based intervention for patients. Patient Education and Counseling 2004; 52: 113-121.
Project Number: P01 HS10876-01
Project Title: Racial & Ethnic Variation in Medical Interactions (EXCEED)
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-030
80. Valdes I, Kibbe DC, Tolleson G, Kunik ME, Petersen LA. Barriers to proliferation of electronic medical records. Informatics in primary care 2004; 12: 3-9.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Laura Petersen, MP, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: RWJ 45-444
81. Veazey CH, Blanchard EB, Hickling EJ, Buckley TC. Physiological responsiveness of motor vehicle accident survivors with chronic posttraumatic stress disorder. Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback 2004; 29: 51-62.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Connie Veazey
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
82. Weber JB, Coverdale JH, Kunik ME. Delirium: current trends in prevention and treatment. Internal Medicine Journal 2004; 34: 115-121.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Mark Kunik, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
83. Zhou W, Bush RL, Lin PH, Lumsden AB. Radiation-associated venous stenosis: endovascular treatment options. Journal of Vascular Surgery : Official Publication, The Society For Vascular Surgery [And] International Society For Cardiovascular Surgery, North American Chapter 2004; 40: 179-182.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Ruth Bush, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

84. Zhou W, Lin PH, Bush RL, Nguyen L, Lumsden AB. Acute arterial thrombosis associated with cocaine abuse. Journal of Vascular Surgery : Official Publication, The Society For Vascular Surgery [And] International Society For Cardiovascular Surgery, North American Chapter 2004; 40: 291-295.

Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Ruth Bush, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

Books

1. El Serag HB. Contemporary diagnosis and management of upper gastrointestinal diseases ed. Newtown, PA: AMM Co., Inc., 2004.
Project Number: RCD 00-013
Project Title: RCD - Clinical Outcomes and Resource Utilization in Gastrointestinal Disease
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
2. Smith PB, Kenan MM, Kunik ME. Alzheimer's for Dummies ed. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing, Inc, 2004.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Mark Kunik, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

Book Chapters

1. Bush RL, Lin PH, Lumsden AB. Nonatherosclerotic Vascular Disease. In: Brunicardi CF, editor. Schwartz: Surgical Principles, 7th edition ed., 2004.
Project Number: XNV 33-055
Project Title: Baylor College of Medicine-Department of Surgery Funds
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, AB
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
2. Bush RL, Lin PH, Lumsden AB. Natural History of Cerebrovascular Occlusive Disease. In: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, editor. Mastery of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, 1st edition ed. Baltimore, MD. 2004., 2004.
Project Number: XNV 33-055
Project Title: Baylor College of Medicine-Department of Surgery Funds
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, AB
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
3. Deswal A, Bozkurt B, Mann DL. The Clinical Experience with Anti-Cytokine Therapy in Heart Failure. In: Feuerstein GZ, Libby P, Mann DL, editor. Inflammation and Cardiac Diseases (Progress in Inflammation Research), First ed. Boston, MA: Birkhauser, 2003.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Anita Deswal, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: CRCO 712B
4. Emery P, Suarez-Almazor ME. Rheumatoid Arthritis. In: BMJ Publishing Group, editor. Clinical Evidence: The international source of the best available evidence for effective care. London, UK: BMA House, 2003.
Project Number: 006-03
Project Title: Outcome Assessment in Scleroderma
PI: Maria E. Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
5. Giordano TP, Grimes RM. Management of the HIV-infected patient. In: Rakel RE, Bope ET, editor. Conn's Current Therapy 2004, 56th Edition ed. Philadelphia, PA: WB Saunders Company, 2004.
Project Number: NIH 67-505
Project Title: HIV, Race and Survival in the Highly Active Therapy Era
PI: Thomas P. Giordano, MD, BS
Center: Houston
Awardee: NIH 67-505

6. Hampel H, El-Serag HB. Extraesophageal manifestations of GERD. In: Fass R, editor. Hot Topics: GERD/Dyspepsia. , 2003.
Project Number: RCD 00-013
Project Title: RCD - Clinical Outcomes and Resource Utilization in Gastrointestinal Disease
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
7. Suarez-Almazor ME, Osiri M, Emery P. Rheumatoid Arthritis. In: BMJ Publishing Group, editor. Evidence-Based Rheumatology. London, UK: BMA House, 2004.
Project Number: 006-03
Project Title: Outcome Assessment in Scleroderma
PI: Maria E. Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

Conference Presentations / Abstracts

1. Abraham NS, Moayyedi P, Van Zanten SJ. Methodologic quality of trials affects estimates of treatment efficacy in functional (non-ulcer) dyspepsia: a meta-analysis based on two methodologic criteria scores. Digestive Diseases Week. New Orleans, LA 2004.

Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Neena Abraham, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

2. Abraham NS, Raman M, Thompson K. Treatment efficacy and safety related to the use of propofol vs. conventional sedation in the performance of colonoscopy: a meta-analysis of published randomized controlled trials. Digestive Diseases Week. New Orleans, LA 2004.

Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Neena Abraham, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

3. Abraham NS, Williams SP, Thompson K, Love J, MacIntosh DG. Selective cannulation of the common bile duct: a randomized controlled trial comparing sphincterotomes. Digestive Diseases Week. New Orleans, LA 2004.

Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Neena Abraham, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

4. Ashton CM. Beyond Racial Concordance: Patients' Perceptions of Relational Similarity. American Academy on Physician and Patient. Baltimore, MD 2003.

Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

5. Balkrishnan R, Kelly PA. Selecting outcome measures in intervention studies. Kelsey Research Foundation Health Services and Outcomes Research Conference. Houston, TX 2003.

Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Adam Kelly, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

6. Braun U, Beyth RJ, McCullough L. A preventive ethics approach regarding over-treatment at the end-of-life. 3rd Congress of the European Union Geriatric Medicine Society meeting. Vienna, Austria 2004.
Project Number: R03 22-144
Project Title: Cultural Differences in End-of-Life Decision Making
PI: Ursula K. Braun, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 02-029
7. Braun U, Urbauer D, Wrap NP, Beyth RJ. Racial disparities in tube feeding practices for patients with dementia. Annual Meeting of the American Geriatrics Society. Baltimore, MD 2004.
Project Number: R03 22-144
Project Title: Cultural Differences in End-of-Life Decision Making
PI: Ursula K. Braun, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 02-029
8. Braun U, Urbauer D, Wray NP. Racial Differences in PEG Tube Feeding for Veterans with Dementia. Department of Veterans Affairs Annual Health Services Research and Development Service Meeting. Washington, DC 2004.
Project Number: RCD 02-029
Project Title: RCD
PI: Ursula K. Braun, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 02-029
9. Campbell J, Petersen N, Yu HJ, Beyth RJ, Woodard L, Kimmel B, Espadas D, Moffett M, Deswal A. Costs Associated with a CHF Coordinated Care Program: A Pilot Project. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Research & Development National QUERI Conference. Washington, District of Columbia 2003.
Project Number: CHF 98-001
Project Title: QUERI on Chronic Heart Failure
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
10. Campbell J, Petersen NJ, Yu HJ, Beyth RJ, Kimmel B, Espadas D, Johnson ML, Woodard L, Moffett M, Deswal A. Costs Associated with a Chronic Heart Failure (CHF) Coordinated Care Program. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Research & Development National QUERI Conference. Washington, DC 2003.
Project Number: CHF 98-001
Project Title: QUERI on Chronic Heart Failure
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: CRCD 712B

11. Chan G, Barkun J, Abraham NS, Barkun AN, Valois E. The effectiveness of ciprofloxacin in prolonging plastic biliary stent patency: a randomized controlled trial. Digestive Diseases Week. New Orleans, LA 2004.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Neena Abraham, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
12. Collins TC, Beyth RJ, Petersen NJ, Suarez-Almazor M, Bush R, Ashton CM. Process of Care Patterns for Veterans with Peripheral Arterial Disease. Department of Veterans Affairs Annual Health Services Research and Development Service Meeting. Washington, DC 2004.
Project Number: IIR 01-180
Project Title: Process of Care in Peripheral Arterial Disease
PI: Tracie C. Collins, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: CRCDD 735
13. Collins TC, Beyth RJ, Petersen NJ, Suarez-Almazor M, Bush R, Ashton CM. Process of Care Patterns for Veterans with Peripheral Arterial Disease. Department of Veterans Affairs Annual Health Services Research and Development Service Meeting. Washington, DC 2004.
Project Number: IIR 01-180
Project Title: Process of Care in Peripheral Arterial Disease
PI: Tracie C. Collins, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 02-184
14. Collins TC, Krueger PN, Kroll T, Sharf B. Developing a patient-derived intervention to increase adherence to exercise. Department of Veterans Affairs Annual Health Services Research and Development Service Meeting. Washington, DC 2004.
Project Number: XNV 33-024
Project Title: Racial Variation in the Epidemiology and Outcomes of Peripheral Arterial Disease
PI: Tracie C. Collins, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: CRCDD 735
15. Collins TC, Krueger PN, Kroll T, Sharf B. Developing a patient-derived intervention to increase adherence to exercise. Society of General Internal Medicine. Chicago, IL 2004.
Project Number: XNV 33-024
Project Title: Racial Variation in the Epidemiology and Outcomes of Peripheral Arterial Disease
PI: Tracie C. Collins, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: CRCDD 735

16. Collins TC, Krueger PN, Sharf B. Developing a patient-derived intervention to increase adherence to exercise. Society of General Internal Medicine. Chicago, IL 2004.
Project Number: XNV 33-024
Project Title: Racial Variation in the Epidemiology and Outcomes of Peripheral Arterial Disease
PI: Tracie C. Collins, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: CRCD 735
17. Davila JA, Abraham NS, Rabeneck L, Berger DH, El-Serag HB. Increased use of lower anterior resection for rectal cancer in veterans. Digestive Diseases Week. New Orleans, LA 2004.
Project Number: MRP 03-134
Project Title: MREP
PI: Jessica Davila, PhD, MS, BS
Center: Houston
Awardee: MRP 03-134
18. Daw C, Byrne MM, Pietz K, Kuebleler M, Petersen LA. Longitudinal study of changes in VHA illness burden over five years. Department of Veteran Affairs Annual Health Services Research and Development Service Meeting. Washington, DC 2004.
Project Number: XNV 33-059
Project Title: Investigating Childhood Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease as a Risk Factor for Complicated GERD in Adults
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
19. Deswal A, Petersen NJ, Johnson ML, Connelly T, Gaska MA, Powell P, Prahash A, Espadas D, Kimmel B, Campbell J, Beyth RJ. Reducing Readmission Rates in Patients with Heart Failure. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Research & Development National QUERI Conference. Washington, DC 2003.
Project Number: CRCD 712B
Project Title: Evaluation of Outcomes and New Therapeutic Strategies for Diastolic Heart Failure
PI: Anita Deswal, MD, MPH, MBBS
Center: Houston
Awardee: MRP 02-083
20. Diefenbach G.J., Stanley M.A., Hopko D.R., Novy D., Kunik M.E., Wilson N, Wagener P. The nature of generalized anxiety in older primary care patients: preliminary findings. Association for Advancement of Behavior Therapy (AABT). Boston, MA 2003.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Mark Kunik, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

21. El-Serag HB, Giordano TP, Soucek J, Kramer JR, Richardson P. Coinfection with Hepatitis C Prolongs Survival in HIV-Infected Patients. Digestive Diseases Week. New Orleans, LA 2004.
Project Number: XNV 33-038
Project Title: The Effect of HCV Co-Infection on the Clinical Course of HIV-Infected Patients
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: NIH 97-505
22. Garcia Popa-Liseanu MG, Greisinger A, Richardson M, O'Malley KJ, Jenssen NM, Marcus DM, Tagore J, Suarez-Almazor ME. Determinants of treatment adherence in patients with rheumatic disease. European Congress of Rheumatology. Berlin, GR 2004.
Project Number: R01 47-858
Project Title: Treatment Adherence in Patients with Rheumatic Disease
PI: Maria E. Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
23. Giordano TP, Gifford AL, Hartman C, Bozzette SA, Morgan RO. Adherence to Care: How Commonly Do US Veterans with HIV Experience Substantial Gaps in Care?. XV International AIDS Conference. Bangkok, Thailand 2004.
Project Number: NIH 67-505
Project Title: HIV, Race and Survival in the Highly Active Therapy Era
PI: Thomas P. Giordano, MD, BS
Center: Houston
Awardee: NIH 67-505
24. Giordano TP, Guzman D, Clark R, Charlebois ED, Bangsberg DR. Measuring Adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy in a Diverse Population Using a Visual Analogue Scale (VAS). XV International AIDS Conference. Bangkok, Thailand 2004.
Project Number: NIH 67-505
Project Title: HIV, Race and Survival in the Highly Active Therapy Era
PI: Thomas P. Giordano, MD, BS
Center: Houston
Awardee: NIH 67-505
25. Giordano TP, Guzman D, Clark R, Cherlebois ED, Bangsberg DR. Coinfection with Hepatitis C Prolongs Survival in HIV-Infected Patients. Digestive Diseases Week. New Orleans, LA 2004.
Project Number: NIH 67-505
Project Title: HIV, Race and Survival in the Highly Active Therapy Era
PI: Thomas P. Giordano, MD, BS
Center: Houston
Awardee: NIH 67-505

26. Gordon HS, O'Malley KJ, Sharf BF, Street RL, Haidet P. Looking from the other site: A measure of physicians' perception of patients' communication. J Gen Intern Med. Chicago, IL 2004.
Project Number: P01 HS10876-01
Project Title: Racial & Ethnic Variation in Medical Interactions (EXCEED)
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-030
27. Gordon HS, Street RL, Kelly PA. Selecting outcome measures in intervention studies. VA Research Day Symposium, Michael E DeBakey VA Medical Center. Houston, TX 2004.
Project Number: RCD 97-319
Project Title: RCD - Understanding and Eliminating Racial/Ethnic Variations in Health Care - Advanced Career Development Award
PI: Howard S. Gordon, MD, SB
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 97-319
28. Hyer L, Snow A.L., Molinari V.A., Powers D, Sohnle S, Aupperle P, Zweig R. Treating the cognitively impaired older adult with cognitive behavioral therapy.. American Psychological Association. Honolulu, HI 2004.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: A. Lynn Snow, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 01-008
29. Johnson ML, Beyth RJ, Pietz K, Battelman DS. Attainment of therapeutic goals in patients with hypertension and dyslipidemia in the Department of Veterans Affairs: a multi-center study. 16th Annual Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy Annual Meeting. San Francisco, California 2004.
Project Number: XNV 33-037
Project Title: Hypertension, Hyperlipidemia & Diabetes Treatment and Outcomes: A Study of Patients in the VA
PI: Michael L. Johnson, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: MRP 02-083
30. Johnson ML, Beyth RJ, Pietz K, Battelman DS. Attainment of therapeutic goals in patients with hypertension and dyslipidemia in the Veterans Affairs healthcare system: a multicenter study. Academy for Health Services Research and Health Policy annual meeting. San Diego, California 2004.
Project Number: XNV 33-037
Project Title: Hypertension, Hyperlipidemia & Diabetes Treatment and Outcomes: A Study of Patients in the VA
PI: Michael L. Johnson, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: MRP 02-083

31. Johnson ML, Pietz K, Battelman DS, Beyth RJ. Prevalence of concomitant hypertension, dyslipidemia and associated cardiovascular disease in the Veterans Affairs healthcare system: a multicenter study. Academy for Health Services Research and Health Policy. San Diego, CA 2004.
Project Number: XNV 33-037
Project Title: Hypertension, Hyperlipidemia & Diabetes Treatment and Outcomes: A Study of Patients in the VA
PI: Michael L. Johnson, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: MRP 02-083
32. Johnson ML, Pietz K, Battelman DS, Beyth RJ. Therapeutic goal attainment in patients with hypertension and dyslipidemia. Department of Veterans Affairs Annual Health Services Research and Development Service Meeting. Washington, DC 2004.
Project Number: XNV 33-037
Project Title: Hypertension, Hyperlipidemia & Diabetes Treatment and Outcomes: A Study of Patients in the VA
PI: Michael L. Johnson, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: MRP 02-083
33. Johnson ML, Pietz K, Battelman DS, Healty P, Beyth RJ. Prevalence of comorbid hypertension and dyslipidemia and associated cardiovascular disease in the Veterans Affairs health care system: a multi-center study. 2004 Academy for Health Services Research and Health Policy Annual Meeting. San Diego, California 2004.
Project Number: XNV 33-037
Project Title: Hypertension, Hyperlipidemia & Diabetes Treatment and Outcomes: A Study of Patients in the VA
PI: Michael L. Johnson, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: MRP 02-083; RCD 02-184
34. Johnson ML, Singh H. Prescribing trends for evidence based therapies to treat hypertension in patients with diabetes. Society of General Internal Medicine. Chicago, IL 2004.
Project Number: XNV 33-037
Project Title: Hypertension, Hyperlipidemia & Diabetes Treatment and Outcomes: A Study of Patients in the VA
PI: Michael L. Johnson, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: MRP 02-083
35. Kelly PA. Psychometrics: Is it really important in QUERI research. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Research & Development National QUERI Conference. Washington, DC 2003.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Adam Kelly, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

36. Kelly PA, Haidet P, Schneider VF, Searle NS, Seidel CL. Patterns of interactions associated with three instructional methods in a preclinical curriculum. Research in Medical Education Conference of the Association of American Medical Colleges. Washington, DC 2003.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Adam Kelly, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
37. Kimmel B, Deswal A, Petersen NJ, Johnson ML, Espadas D, Willson P, Beyth RJ. Practical Illustration of Bridging the Gap Between the Outcomes of Clinical Trials and their Application-CHF QUERI Coordinating Experience. 25th Annual Meeting of the Society for Clinical Trials. New Orleans, Louisiana 2004.
Project Number: CHF 98-001
Project Title: QUERI on Chronic Heart Failure
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: CRCDC 712B
38. Kimmel B, Deswal A, Petersen NJ, Johnson ML, Espadas D, Willson P, Urbauer D, Yu HJ, Campbell J, Woodard L, Moffett M, Beyth RJ. Bridging the Gap Between Knowledge and Application – Finding the Best Path – CHF QUERI Coordinating Center Experience. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Research & Development National QUERI Conference. Washington, DC 2003.
Project Number: CHF 98-001
Project Title: QUERI on Chronic Heart Failure
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 02-184
39. Kramer JR, Giordano TP, Soucek J, El-Serag HB. The Effect of Hepatitis C Coinfection on the Risk of Fulminant Hepatic Failure in Patients with HIV in the HAART and pre-HAART Eras. Digestive Diseases Week. New Orleans, LA 2004.
Project Number: OAA 97-004
Project Title: Training Program for Fellows (post Ph.D.) at Center of Excellence - Houston
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
40. Kunik ME, Krishnan LL, Petersen NJ, Schultz PE, Snow AL, Braun U, Cully JA, Moffett M, Yu HJ, Morgan RO. Prevalence of Dementia among VA Medical Care System Users. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Research & Development National QUERI Conference. Washington, DC 2003.
Project Number: IIR 01-159
Project Title: Causes and Consequences of Aggressive Behavior in Demented Patients
PI: Mark E. Kunik, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 02-029

41. Lees E, Kunik M.E., Snow A.L., Cody M, Rapp CG, Molinari V.A.. Disruptive behavior in patients with Alzheimer's disease: an application of the Donabedian Model. Southern Gerontological Society. Atlanta, GA 2004.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Mark Kunik, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 01-008
42. MacIntosh DG, Love J, Abraham NS. Endoscopic sphincterotomy using pure cut current does not reduce the risk of post-ERCP pancreatitis. Digestive Diseases Week. New Orleans, LA 2004.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Neena Abraham, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
43. Naik AD, Schulman-Green D, McCorkle R, Bradley EH, Bogardus ST. Development and Refinement of a Shared Decision Making Instrument. American Geriatric Society 2004.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Aanand Naik, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
44. O'Malley KJ, Soucek J, Byrne M, Suarez-Almazor M. The Joint-Specific Multidimensional Assessment of pain (J-MAP): Comparison with the WOMAC. American College of Rheumatology. Orlando, FL 2003.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Kimberly O'Malley, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
45. Petersen N, Johnson ML, Urbauer DL, Beyth RJ, Kimmel B, Espadas D, Yu HJ, Campbell J, Woodard L, Deswal A. A Database of Heart Failure Patients for Quality Improvement Efforts. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Research & Development National QUERI Conference. Washington, District of Columbia 2003.
Project Number: CHF 98-001
Project Title: QUERI on Chronic Heart Failure
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: MRP 02-083

46. Petersen NJ, Johnson ML, Urbauer D, Beyth RJ, Kimmel B, Espadas D, Yu HJ, Campbell J, Woodard L, Deswal A. A Database of Heart Failure Patients for Quality Improvement Efforts. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Research & Development National QUERI Conference. Washington, DC 2003.
- Project Number:** CHF 98-001
Project Title: QUERI on Chronic Heart Failure
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: MRP 02-083
47. Pietz K, Byrne MM, Thompson M, Nelson HA, Sookanan S, Petersen LA. Identifying future very high cost patients using decision theory.. Department of Veteran Affairs Annual Health Services Research and Development Service Meeting. Washington, DC 2004.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Kenneth Pietz, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
48. Pietz K, Soucek J, Nelson HA. Profiling primary care providers in a network of the VA hospitals. International Conference on Health Policy Research. Chicago, IL 2003.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Kenneth Pietz, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
49. Rowan PJ, Dunn NJ, El-Serag HB, Kunik M.E.. Qualitative study: psychiatric contraindications preventing interferon treatment of HCV. Society of Behavioral Medicine. Baltimore, MD 2004.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Paul Rowan, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
50. Rowan PJ, Quijano L, Kunik M.E.. Mental health treatment within a chronic care model. Society of Behavioral Medicine. Baltimore, MD 2004.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Paul Rowan, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

51. Schulman-Green D, Naik AD, McCorkle R, Bradley EH, Bogardus ST. What factors influence goal setting between older adults and their clinicians?. American Geriatric Society 2004.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Aanand Naik, MD
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
52. Sharf BF, Gordon HS. A little bitty spot and I'm a big man: Patients' refusals of doctors' recommendations. International Communication Association. New Orleans, LA 2004.
Project Number: P01 HS10876-01
Project Title: Racial & Ethnic Variation in Medical Interactions (EXCEED)
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-030
53. Singh H, Johnson ML. Diuretic use and guideline adherence in multi-drug anti-hypertensive regimens. Society of General Internal Medicine. Chicago, IL 2004.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Mike Johnson, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: MRP 02-083
54. Snow A.L., Novy D., O'Malley KJ, Cody M, Bruera E, Beck C, Ashton CM, Kunik M.E.. A conceptual model of pain assessment for noncommunicative persons with dementia. Gerontological Society of America 56th Annual Scientific Meeting. San Diego, CA 2003.
Project Number: XNV 33-022
Project Title: Students' Perceptions of Medical School Support for Patient-Centered Care
PI: Paul Haidet, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 01-008
55. Snow AL, Krishnan LL, Schultz PE, Braun U, Cully JA, Moffett M, Morgan RO, Kunik ME. Evidence-based dementia screening recommendations. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Research & Development National QUERI Conference. Washington, DC 2003.
Project Number: RCD 01-008
Project Title: RCD - Improvement in Quality of Care of Demented Nursing Home Residents: Pain Management Approaches
PI: A. Lynn Snow, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 01-008

56. Sookanan S, Pietz K, Woodard LD, Nelson H, Byrne M, Petersen LA. Comparing the clinical validity of diagnosis-based risk adjusters. Department of Veteran Affairs Annual Health Services Research and Development Service Meeting. Washington, DC 2004.
- Project Number:** XVA 33-048
Project Title: Applying DCG's to facility level budgets in VISNs 5,6,9,12 and 22
PI: Laura A. Petersen, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
57. Soucek J, Gordon HS. Sample Size Of Studies With Patients Clustered Within Physicians. Department of Veterans Affairs Annual Health Services Research and Development Service Meeting. Washington, DC 2004.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Julianne Soucek, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 97-319
58. Soucek J, Kelly PA, Gordon HS. Selecting outcome measures in intervention studies. Department of Veterans Affairs Annual Health Services Research and Development Service Meeting. Washington, DC 2004.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Julianne Soucek, PhD
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 97-319
59. Suarez-Almazor M, Soucek J, Kelly PA, Byrne M, Richardson M, Pak C. Ethnic variations in preference for total knee replacement in patients with osteoarthritis. Society of Medical Decision Making. Rotterdam, NL 2004.
- Project Number:** P01 HS10876-01
Project Title: Racial & Ethnic Variation in Medical Interactions (EXCEED)
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
60. Suarez-Almazor ME, Soucek J, Kelly PA, Byrne M, Richardson M, Pak C. Ethnic variations in preference for total knee replacement in patients with osteoarthritis. International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) Conference. Arlington, VA 2004.
- Project Number:** P01 HS10876-01
Project Title: Racial & Ethnic Variation in Medical Interactions (EXCEED)
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

61. Urbauer D, Beyth RJ, Johnson ML. Satisfaction with CHF Coordinated Care and Prevention of Hospital Readmissions. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Research & Development National QUERI Conference. Washington, DC 2003.
Project Number: CHF 98-001
Project Title: QUERI on Chronic Heart Failure
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: RCD 02-184
62. Valdes I, Kibbe DC, Tolleson G, Kunik M.E., Petersen LA. Metcalfe's law predicts reduced power of electronic medical record software. American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA). Washington, DC 2003.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: Laura Petersen, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
63. Veazey CH, Stanley M.A., Hopko D.R., Densmore D, Kunik M.E.. Randomized controlled trial of a cognitive behavioral intervention for anxiety and depression in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Association for Advancement of Behavior Therapy (AABT). Boston, MA 2003.
Project Number: IIR 00-097
Project Title: A Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention for Depression and Anxiety in COPD
PI: Mark E. Kunik, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: None
64. Visnegarwala F, Mullin CM, Giordano TP, Martinez M, Stratton S, Shelburne S, Gilbert C, Carr A, El-Sadr WM. Racial Differences in Prevalence of Self Reported Changes in Body Habitus and their Association with Body Composition Measurements in a Cohort of HIV+ Patients (SMART Study, CPCRA 065). XV International AIDS Conference. Bangkok, Thailand 2004.
Project Number: NIH 67-505
Project Title: HIV, Race and Survival in the Highly Active Therapy Era
PI: Thomas P. Giordano, MD, BS
Center: Houston
Awardee: NIH 67-505
65. Woodard LD, Kramer JR, Richardson P, Capistrano L, Ashton CM, Morgan RO. Abuse of prescription pain relievers and co-use of other drugs: a potential barrier for office based treatment with buprenorphine. Society of General Internal Medicine. Chicago, IL. 2004.
Project Number: P01 HS10876-02S1
Project Title: Variation in Office-Based Treatment of Opiate Abuse - Supplement to Race Grant
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

66. Woodard LD, Urech T, Thompson M, Byrne M, Pietz K, Petersen LA. Medicare reliance and variation in post-myocardial infarction procedure use. Department of Veterans Affairs Annual Health Services Research and Development Service Meeting. Washington, DC 2004.

Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Agitation
PI: LeChauncy Woodard, MD, MPH
Center: Houston
Awardee: None

Reports

1. Petersen LA, Byrne M, Pietz K, Kuebeler M, Thompson M, Nelson H, Sookanan S, Urech T. Risk Adjusted VERA Project (Phase VI Risk-Adjusted VERA Work Group: Assessing Strategies for Risk Adjusting VERA-10 Classes). 2004 Sep 30. Report Number: XVA 33-059.

Project Number: XVA 33-059

Project Title: VERA DBAF Phase VI - Risk Adjusted VERA Work Group: Assessing Strategies for Risk-Adjusting VERA-10 Classes

PI: Laura A. Petersen, MD, MPH

Center: Houston

Awardee: None

2. Petersen LA, Byrne M, Pietz K, Kuebeler M, Thompson M, Nelson H, Sookanan S, Urech T. Using DCGs to Profile and Forecast VA Facility Budgets in Networks 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, and 22 (Phase V). 2004 Jan 31. Report Number: XVA 33-048.

Project Number: XVA 33-048

Project Title: Applying DCG's to facility level budgets in VISNs 5,6,9,12 and 22

PI: Laura A. Petersen, MD, MPH

Center: Houston

Awardee: None

6 National and Regional Leadership Roles

The investigators at the Houston Center of Excellence are prominent leaders on national research committees, editorial review boards, in academic associations & institutions. Our investigators make a substantive contribution to advance science and promote VA HSR&D. Membership on and participation in many other organizations is detailed in the provided table.

As part of the five mandates for successfully maintaining a position as a Research Team Leader at our Center, we view the requirement of service in leadership and mentorship roles as the most important for highlighting the Center, the individual, and the quality of scientific contributions. Further, with “Development” remaining as our core strategic goal, we view the involvement of PI’s in leadership roles as critical to the continuous improvement of our scientist’s management & networking skills. Our investigators remain committed to growth by continuing to seek opportunities for leadership that has beneficial impact to this Center, the national healthcare community, and their own professional acumen. Our objective for FY05 and beyond is to ensure each scientist and senior leader is a member of his or her respective discipline’s nationally recognized group, society, or organization. It is through thoughtful leadership in such organizations that we will impact our industry and expand the reputation of health services research as a necessary element for constructive change in healthcare policy and practice.

In addition to these national and regional leadership roles documented in the table, our research team leaders also serve on numerous committees and take on vital roles more closely tied to the Center and the local research community. Some of these activities include: VA Research and Development Committee; Health Services Research Subcommittee; Baylor Internal Review Board; Team Leader Advisory Council; Professional Development Committee; Research Excellence QOWW (Every Other Week on Wednesday) Seminar Planning Committee; Foundations of Health Services Research Seminar Planning Committee; Design and Analysis (DAS) GAP Committee; DAS Team Leader Development and Support Committee; DAS Mentoring; DAS Scientific Review; and the DAS Professional Development Organization.

6.1 National and Regional Leadership Roles (Table 4)

Houston Center of Excellence National and Regional Leadership Roles, FY 2004

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
N. Abraham MD MSc BA	American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Annual Scientific Program Committee-Outcomes Section	AS	Member	No	5
	American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Committee on Diversity of the Society	AS	Member	No	5
	Canadian Association of Gastroenterology Governing Board	AS	Member	No	5
	Canadian Association of Gastroenterology Nominating Committee	AS	Member	No	5
	Gastrointestinal Women's Coalition-American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy	AS	Elected Member	No	5
	Gender Committee-Canadian Association of Gastroenterology	AS	Chair	No	5
	The American College of Gastroenterology	AS	Member	No	5
	The American Gastroenterology Association	AS	Member	No	5
	The American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy	AS	Member	No	5
	The Canadian Association of Gastroenterology	AS	Reviewer	No	5
	The Gastroenterology Research Group	AS	Member	No	5
	Canadian Journal of Gastroenterology	EB	Member	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	EC	Assistant Professor	No	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	EC	Member, Health Services Research Subcommittee	Yes	5
	Health Services Research Peer Review Committee for the Nova Scotia Health Research Fund	RG	Member	No	5
	MEDVAMC Section of Digestive Diseases	RG	Attending Staff Physician	No	5
	MEDVAMC Section of Health Services Research	RG	Physician-Health Services Researcher	Yes	3

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
C. Ashton MD MPH	Academy for Health Services Research and Health Policy	AS	Member	No	4,5
	American Public Health	AS	Member	No	5
	Society of General Internal	AS	Member	No	5
	Annals of Internal Medicine	EB	Reviewer	No	3
	Circulation	EB	Reviewer	No	3
	Health Services Research	EB	Reviewer	No	3
	Journal of General Internal Medicine	EB	Member, Editorial Board	No	3
	Medical Care	EB	Co-Editor-in-Chief	No	3,5
	Baylor College of Medicine	EC	Tenured Professor of Medicine and Medical Ethics	No	4,5
	Houston Center for Quality of Care and Utilization Studies	EC	Director	Yes	1,2,4,5
	Houston VA Medical Center	EC	Staff Physician, General Medicine Section	Yes	4
	Houston Veterans Affairs Medical Center	EC	Deputy Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development	Yes	1,2,3,4
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	EC	Chair, Health Services Research Subcommittee	Yes	5
	The University of Texas School of Public Health	EC	Adjunct Associate Professor, Health Services Organizations	No	4,5
	Veterans Health Administration, National Leadership Board, Finance Committee	NB	SubCommittee Chair	Yes	3,5
	Houston VAMC	RG	Chief, General Medicine Section	Yes	2,4,5
	National Advisory Group on Veterans Health Administration Physician Productivity and Staffing	VAN	Member	Yes	2
	VA HSR&D Service	VAN	Member, Liaison Committee, VA HSR&D and VISNs	Yes	1,2,5
	VA Research and Development Service	VAN	Ad Hoc grant proposal reviewer	Yes	2
	Veterans Health Administration	VAN	Member, National Practice Advisory Board	Yes	2
D. Berger MD	Association for Academic Surgery	AS	Member, Executive Council (1997-present)	No	5
	Association of Veterans Affairs Surgeons	AS	Member, Bylaws Committee (2002-Present)	Yes	2
	Association of Veterans Affairs Surgeons	AS	Chair Council of Chiefs (2003-Present)	Yes	2
	Association of Veterans Affairs Surgeons	AS	Member, Awards Committee (2003-Present)	Yes	2
	Houston Surgical Society	AS	Secretary (2003-2004)	No	5
	VHA Instrument Standardization Advisory Group	VAR	Member	Yes	2
	VHA Surgical Advisory Committee	VAR	Member (2002-Present)	Yes	2

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
R. Beyth MD MS	American College of Physicians	AS	Member	No	5
	American Geriatrics Society	AS	Member	No	5
	Society of General Internal	AS	Member	No	5
	The Steering Committee for the Anticoagulation - Thromboembolism Research Consortium (AT-RC), The Society of General Internal Medicine	AS	Chief Operations Officer	No	3
	American College of Chest Physicians	CL	Member, Anti-thrombotic Guidelines Committee	No	3,5
	American Journal of Cardiology	EB	Reviewer	No	3
	American Journal of Managed Care	EB	Reviewer	No	3
	American Journal of Medicine	EB	Reviewer	No	3
	Annals of Internal Medicine	EB	Reviewer	No	3
	Drugs and Aging	EB	Reviewer	No	3
	Journal of General Internal Medicine	EB	Reviewer	No	3
	Medical Care	EB	Reviewer	No	3
	Baylor College of Medicine	EC	Assistant Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine	No	4,5
	Houston Center for Quality of Care & Utilization Studies	EC	Associate Director	Yes	1,2,3,4,5
	Houston MEDVAMC	EC	Staff Physician, General Medicine Consultation Service	Yes	4
	VA HSR&D Service	EC	Research Coordinator, CHF-	Yes	2,3,5
	American Board of Internal Medicine and American Board of Family Medicine	NB	Author and Reviewer for National Geriatric Medicine Examinations	No	6
	AHCPR-Small Grants Program	RG	Ad Hoc Grant Proposal Reviewer	No	3
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Chair, Research Excellence Initiative, Performance and Evaluation Committee	No	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Health Services Research Subcommittee	Yes	3,5

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
U. Braun MD MPH	American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine	AS	Member	No	5
	American Geriatric Society	AS	Member	No	5
	Society of General Internal	AS	Member	No	5
	The Gerontological Society of America	AS	Member	No	6
	Baylor College of Medicine	EC	Assistant Professor of Medicine, Section of Geriatrics	No	5
	Houston MEDVAMC	EC	Staff Physician, Extended Care	Yes	2,4
	Huffington Center on Aging, Hartford Center of Excellence Geriatric Recruitment Initiative Committee	RG	Steering Committee Member	No	5
	Huffington Center on Aging, Hartford Center of Excellence Geriatric Recruitment Initiative Committee	RG	Member	No	5
	Huffington Center on Aging, Hartford Center of Excellence, AGA Special Interest Group for Junior Faculty Research	RG	Steering Committee Member, Chair Elect for 2005	No	4
	Medical Care	RG	Reviewer	No	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Coordinator, Professional Development Committee	Yes	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Research Excellence Initiative QOWW Planning Committee	Yes	5
B. Brody PhD MA BA	NASA	NB	Chair, NASA Bioethics Policy Task Force	No	2
	NIH	NB	Member, Data and Safety Monitoring Boards	No	3
R. Bush MD AB	MEDVAMC Cardiovascular Center of Excellence Organizational Committee	EC	Member	Yes	5
	Emory University Hospital Endograft Pathway Committee	RG	Member	No	5
	Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center Patient Satisfaction Committee	VAR	Member	Yes	2

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
T. Collins MD MPH	American College of Physicians	AS	Member	No	5
	American Medical Association	AS	Member	No	5
	Annals of Internal Medicine	AS	Reviewer	No	3
	Journal of General Internal Medicine	AS	Reviewer	No	3
	Journal of Vascular Surgery	AS	Reviewer	No	3
	Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology	AS	Fellow	No	5
	Society of General Internal	AS	Member	No	5
	Society of Vascular Medicine and Biology	AS	Fellow	No	5
	EXCEED Project Community Education Panelists - IDEAL Core - KTSU Radio Station	EB	Member	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	EC	Assistant Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine	No	4,5
	Houston MEDVAMC	EC	Director, General Medicine Consult Service	Yes	4
	Houston MEDVAMC	EC	Staff Physician, General Medicine Service	Yes	2
	John Peavey Community Center	EC	Facilitator for a Community Education Forum	No	5
	MEDVAMC	EC	Member, Minority Veterans Committee	Yes	5
	MEDVAMC	EC	Member, Women Veterans Committee	Yes	5
	MEDVAMC HSR&D	RG	Member, Health Services Research Subcommittee	Yes	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Team Leader Advisory Council	Yes	5
	Cardiovascular Center of Veterans Health Administration	VAN	Outcomes Conference Coordinator	Yes	1
	Women Veterans Health Committee	VAN	Member, Blue Ribbon National Committee	Yes	1,2
J. Cully PhD M Ed BS	Baylor College of Medicine	VAN	Member	No	5
J. Davila PhD MS	Baylor College of Medicine	EC	Assistant Professor	No	5
	American Public Health	AS	Member	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Assistant Professor of Medicine	No	5
	Society for Epidemiologic Research	AS	Member	No	5
	The American Journal of Psychiatry	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Health Services Research Sub-Committee	Yes	5

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
A. Deswal MD MPH MBBS	American Heart Association	AS	Member	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Assistant Professor of Medicine	No	4,5
	Heart Failure Society of America	AS	Member	No	5
	MEDVAMC Cardiovascular Center of Excellence	CL	Member, Organization of Outcomes Conferences	Yes	5
	Baylor College of Medicine, Section of Cardiology	EC	Member, Strategic Planning Subcommittee for Heart Failure	No	5
	Houston MEDVAMC	EC	Member, Cardiovascular Health Fair Committee	Yes	3
	VA CHF QUERI	EC	Member, Core Director for New Research, Coordinating Center for the VA Chronic Heart Failure Quality Enhancement Research Initiative	Yes	2,5
	American College of Cardiology	RG	Reviewer, Annual Scientific Sessions Abstracts	No	5
	American Journal of Managed Care	RG	Reviewer	No	5
	American Journal of Medicine	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Member and Mentor, BCM Minority Medical Student Mentoring Committee	No	4
	Circulation	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Journal of the American College of Cardiology	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Medical Care	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Research Excellence Initiative QOWW Planning Committee	Yes	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Team Leader Advisory Council	Yes	5
	VA Prosthetic Clinical Management (PCM)	VAN	Member, National Workgroup on Left Ventricular Assist Devices	Yes	1,2,3
	VA Research Executive	VAN	Member, VISN 16	Yes	1,2
	Houston MEDVAMC	VAR	Staff Physician, Department of Medicine, Section of Cardiology	Yes	4,5

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
H. El-Serag MD MPH	American Association for Study of Liver Disease	AS	Member	No	5
	American College of Gastroenterology	AS	Member, Research Committee	No	5
	American College of Physicians	AS	Member	No	6
	American Gastroenterological Association	AS	Member, Clinical Practice Section	No	5
	American Gastroenterology Association	AS	Member, Research Committee	No	5
	American Journal of Medicine	EB	Ad hoc Reviewer	No	5
	Annals of Epidemiology	EB	Ad hoc Reviewer	No	5
	Digestive and Liver Disease	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	Digestive Diseases and Sciences	EB	Ad hoc Reviewer	No	5
	Evidence Based Gastroenterology	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	Helicobacter	EB	Ad hoc Reviewer	No	5
	Hepatology	EB	Ad hoc Reviewer	No	5
	Journal of Alimentary Pharmacology and Therapeutics	EB	Ad hoc Reviewer	No	5
	Journal of Hepatology	EB	Ad hoc Reviewer	No	5
	Lancet	EB	Ad hoc Reviewer	No	5
	Medical Care	EB	Ad hoc Reviewer	No	5
	Pharmacoeconomics	EB	Ad hoc Reviewer	No	5
	National Institute of Health	EC	Member, Scientific Review Panel, Epidemiology & Disease Control-2 Study Section	No	3
	American College of Gastroenterology	RG	Member	No	3
	American Journal of Gastroenterology	RG	Ad hoc Reviewer	No	3
	Annals of Internal Medicine	RG	Ad hoc Reviewer	No	5
	Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology	RG	Ad hoc Reviewer	No	5
	Gastroenterology	RG	Ad hoc Reviewer	No	3
	Gastroenterology Research Group	RG	Member	No	3
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Team Leader Advisory Council	Yes	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Ad hoc Member, Research & Development Committee	Yes	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Ad hoc Member, Health Services Research Sub-Committee	Yes	5

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
M. Ford PhD MS MSW	Houston Center for Quality of Care & Utilization Studies	EC	Associate Director	Yes	1,2,3,4,5
	National Institutes of Health Risk, Prevention & Health Behavior IRG	EC	Member of Study Section 3	No	3,5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Section of Health Services Research	No	5
	Journal of General Internal Medicine	RG	Ad Hoc Reviewer	No	5
	Journal of the National Medical Association	RG	Reviewer	No	5
	Medical Care	RG	Ad Hoc Reviewer	No	3,5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Ad hoc member, Health Services Research Sub-Committee	Yes	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Chair, Team Leader Advisory Council	Yes	5
	National Institute of Health	RG	Member, Ad hoc proposal review study section	No	5
	Nicotine and Tobacco Research	RG	Ad Hoc Reviewer	No	5
	VA Blue Ribbon Committee	VAN	Member	Yes	4
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	VAR	Member, Field Based Science Advisory Committee, Equity	Yes	5

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
S. Garber MA BS	American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine	AS	Member	No	5
	American Occupational Therapy Association	AS	Member	No	5
	American Spinal Injury Association	AS	Member	No	5
	American Spinal Injury Association	AS	Member, Membership Committee	No	5
	Texas Occupational Therapy Association	AS	Member	No	5
	American Journal of Occupational Therapy	EB	Manuscript Reviewer	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	EC	Member, Conflict of Interest Committee	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	EC	Member, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Research Committee	No	5
	Advances in Skin and Wound Care	RG	Manuscript Reviewer	No	5
	American Association of Spinal Cord Injury Psychologists and Social Workers	RG	Grant Reviewer	No	5
	American College of Rehabilitation Medicine	RG	Elected Member, Nominating Committee	No	5
	Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	RG	Manuscript Reviewer	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Appointed Member, Faculty Committee on Awards	No	5
	British Columbia Health Care Research Foundation	RG	Grant Reviewer	No	5
	Department of Veterans Affairs	RG	Manuscript Reviewer, Journal of Rehabilitation of Research and Development	Yes	5
	Institute of Medicine/General Accounting Office	RG	Panel Member, Panel on Characterizing Rehabilitation at Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities	No	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Research & Development Sub-Committee	Yes	5
	Department of Veterans Affairs	VAN	Grant Reviewer, Rehabilitation Research and Development	Yes	3
K. Garibaldi MD BA	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Instructor, Department of Family and Community Medicine	No	4
T. Giordano MD BS	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Assistant Professor of Medicine	No	5
	HIV Medicine Association	AS	Member	No	3
	Infectious Disease Society of America	AS	Member	No	3
	International AIDS Society	AS	Member	No	3
	Journal of American Medical Association	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Medical Care	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Team Leader Advisory Council	Yes	5
	Thomas Street Clinic	RG	Member, Standards of Care Committee	No	5
L. Goetzl MD MPH	QUERI-HIV - Adherence and Self Management Study Group	VAN	Member	Yes	3
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology	No	5

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
H. Gordon MD SB	American Academy on Physician and Patient	AS	Member	No	5
	American College of Physicians	AS	Member	No	5
	American College of Physicians	AS	Member	No	5
	Association for Health Services Research	AS	Member	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Assistant Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine	No	5
	Society of General Internal	AS	Member	No	5
	CHF QUERI Executive Committee	EC	Member	Yes	5
	Houston MEDVAMC	EC	Staff Physician, General Medicine Section	Yes	2
	AHCPR	RG	Reviewer, Small Grants Section	No	3,5
	American Journal of Medicine	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	International Journal for Quality in Health Care	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Journal of Clinical Epidemiology	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Journal of General Internal Medicine	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Medical Care	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Team Leader Advisory Council	Yes	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Professional Development Committee	Yes	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Health Services Research Subcommittee	Yes	5
	The Journal of Rural Health	RG	Reviewer	No	3

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
P. Haidet MD MPH	Alpha Omega Alpha	AS	Member	No	5
	American Academy on Physician and Patient	AS	Member, Research Committee	No	5
	American Academy on Physician and Patient	AS	Member, Publications Committee	No	5
	American Academy on Physician and Patient	AS	Member, Narratives Committee	No	5
	American Academy on Physician and Patient	AS	Member, Patient Handout Subcommittee of the Publications Committee	No	5
	American Academy on Physician and Patient	AS	Member, Council of Committee Chairs	No	5
	American College of Physicians	AS	Member	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Assistant Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine	No	5
	Emory School of Medicine	AS	Member: The Ad Hoc Group on Teaching Humanism at the Bedside, American Academy on Physician and Patient, William T. Branch, Carter Smith Sr. Professor of Medicine	No	2
	Society of General Internal	AS	Co-Chair, 2004 Annual Meeting Abstract Selection Committee, Qualitative Research	No	5
	Society of General Internal	AS	Co-Chair, Abstract Selection Subcommittee of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee	No	5
	Society of General Internal	AS	Member, Research Committee	No	5
	Society of General Internal	AS	Member, Grant Review Committee, Horn Scholars	No	5
	Southern Society of General Internal Medicine	AS	Member, Review, Committee, Educator of the Year Award	No	5
	The Fetzer Institute - The Relationship-Centered Care Research Initiative	EC	Member	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Candidate Interviewer, Internal Medicine Residency	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Member, Internal Medicine Resident Selection Committee	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Committee Member and Educational Consultant, Small Group Teaching and Clinical Teaching, Educator Consultation Program under the direction of the Committee for Educator Development	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Member, Integrated Problem Solving (IPS) Peer Review Subcommittee of the IPS Steering Committee	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Member, Internal Medicine Core Clerkship Committee	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Member, Fall IPS/PPS/Ethics Planning Committee	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Charter Member, Academy of Distinguished Educators	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Member, Educational Research and Resources Committee of the Baylor Academy of Distinguished Educators	No	5

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
P. Haidet MD MPH	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Member, Task Force on Curriculum Evaluation commissioned by the Baylor Curriculum Committee	No	5
	Emory School of Medicine	RG	Member, The Ad Hoc Group on Teaching Humanism at the Bedside, American Academy on Physician and Patient	No	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Health Services Research Subcommittee	Yes	5
	VHA	VAN	Member, Planning Committee, 2005 HSR&D Service Meeting	Yes	5
M. Johnson PhD	Academy of Health Services Research and Health Policy	AS	Member	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine	No	5
	International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research	AS	Member	No	5
	Society of General Internal Health Services Research	AS	Member	No	5
	Medical Care	RG	Reviewer	No	3,5
	MEDVAMC	RG	Reviewer	No	3,5
		RG	Member, Strategic Planning implementation Team, Research Service Line	Yes	5
	MEDVAMC	VAR	Lead, Revised Medical Care Group for Target Allowance FY04,	Yes	5
	MEDVAMC	VAR	Member, Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee	Yes	5
P. Kelly PhD MBA	American Academy on Physician and Patient	AS	Member	No	5
	American Education Research Association	AS	Member	No	6
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Member, Evaluation Subcommittee of Curriculum Committee	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine	No	5
	National Council on Measurement in Education	AS	Member	No	5
	Journal of General Internal Medicine	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry and Neurology	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	US Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)	NB	Grant Application Reviewer	No	3,6
	MEDVAMC	RG	Member, Health Services Subcommittee	Yes	5
	METRIC, VA HSR&D	VAR	Acting Director	Yes	2
J. Kramer PhD MPH BA	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Instructor, Department of Medicine	No	5
	MEDVAMC	RG	Scientific Reviewer, Health Services Sub-Committee	Yes	5

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
M. Kunik MD MPH	American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology	AS	Member, Committee for Recertification in Geriatric Psychiatry	No	6
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Department of Psychiatry, Resident Recruitment	No	4
	Department of Veterans Affairs - Office of Research - HSR&D	CL	State of the Art Conference on Long Term Care Participant	Yes	1,4
	Houston Center for Quality of Care & Utilization Studies	EC	Associate Director	Yes	3,4,5
	Houston VAMC - Cooperative Studies Program 546	EC	Planning Committee	Yes	3
	Veterans Affairs Geriatrics and Extended Care Strategic Healthcare	EC	Dementia Registry Taskforce	Yes	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Member, Department of Psychiatry, Undergraduate Education Committee, 1992-1999, Secretary 1993-1999	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Member, Grand Rounds	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Chair, Department of Psychiatry, Journal Club Subcommittee	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Member, Department of Psychiatry, Residency Program	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Member, Department of Psychiatry, Executive Committee	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Faculty Associate of the Huffington Center on Aging	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Chair, Department of Psychiatry, Awards Subcommittee	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Member, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Faculty Appointments, Development and Promotions	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Member, Research Committee	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Member, Department of Psychiatry, Clinical Leadership	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Member, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Search Committee for Research Psychiatrist	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Member, Student Promotion & Academic Achievement Committee, Vice-Chair 1997, Chairman, 1998-2003	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Member, Student Promotions Committee Grading Task Force	No	5
	Department of Veterans Affairs - Office of Research - HSR&D	RG	Veterans Health Services Research and Development Center for Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP) Study	Yes	4,5,6
	MEDVAMC	RG	Member, Parkinson's Disease Research, Education & Clinical Center (PADRECC) Advisory	Yes	5
	MEDVAMC	RG	Chair, Research & Development Committee	Yes	5
	Study Section VA HSR&D	RG	Reviewer	Yes	4,5,6
	Study Section VA HSR&D Nurse Research Initiative	RG	Reviewer	Yes	4,5,6

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
M. Kunik MD MPH	Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Center	VAR	Co-Director, MIRECC Fellowship in Advanced Psychiatry and Psychology	Yes	4,5
	Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Center (MIRECC)	VAR	Clinical Geropsychiatry Research Core Leader	Yes	1,2,3,4,5
D. Kuykendall PhD MBA BA	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Chair, Design Analysis Section Mentoring	Yes	5
L. McCullough PhD AB	Baylor College of Medicine	EC	Director and Professor of Medicine, Community Medicine and Medical Ethics, Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy	No	5
M. Moffett PhD MA BBA	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine	No	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Design Analysis Section Mentoring Committee	Yes	5
R. Morgan PhD	Academy of Health Services Research	AS	Member	No	5
	American Public Health Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Member	No	5
		AS	Associate Professor, Department of Medicine	No	5
	University of Miami	AS	Member, PhD	No	4
	University of Miami School of Medical Research Liaison Committee	AS	Member	No	5
	University of Miami School of Medicine, Undergraduate Medical Curriculum Committee	AS	Member	No	5
	National Technical Advisory Board for VA/Medicare Data Project	EC		Yes	2,3
	REI Evaluation Committee	EC	Committee Member	No	
	American Journal of Managed Care	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Journal of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Journal of Traumatic Stress	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	MEDVAMC	RG	Member, Health Services Research Sub-Committee	Yes	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Research & Development Committee	Yes	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Team Leader Advisory Committee	Yes	5
	VHA	VAN	Member, Health Care Financing Administration Data Merge Initiative Technical Advisory Board	Yes	2
	Miami VA Human Subjects Review Sub-Committee	VAR	Member	Yes	2,3,5
	Miami VA Research Advisory Committee	VAR	Member	Yes	2,3,5
A. Naik MD BS	Academy Health	AS	Member	No	5
	American Geriatric Society	AS	Member	No	5
	American Geriatric Society	AS	Fellow-in-training Representative, Ethics Committee	No	5
	Society of Medical Decision	AS	Member	No	5
	Texas Medical Association	AS	Member	No	5

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
K. O'Malley PhD MS BS	American Psychological Association	AS	Member	No	5
	American Psychological Association Division 38 Health Psychology Special Interest Group	AS	Member	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Assistant Professor of Medicine	No	
	Society of Clinical Trials	AS	Member	No	5
	Medical Care	EB	Reviewer	No	4,5
	Psychological Methods	EB	Reviewer	No	4,5
	Psychiatric Services	RG	Reviewer	No	5
	Psychiatric Services	RG	Special Psychometric Reviewer	No	5
	Research on Aging	RG	Reviewer	No	5
	Structural Equation Modeling	RG	Reviewer	No	5
	University of Houston Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects	RG	Reviewer	No	3
L. Petersen MD MPH	American College of Physicians	AS	Member	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Member, Research Relationships Issue Team	No	5
	Houston Center for Quality of Care & Utilization Studies	AS	Chair, REI Scientific Seminars Committee	No	5
	Society of General Internal	AS	Chair, Abstract Review Committee, Annual Scientific	No	5
	Society of General Internal	AS	Member, National Research Committee	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	EC	Member, Merit Committee	No	5
	Houston Center for Quality of Care & Utilization Studies	EC	Chair, Research Seminar	Yes	5
	Circulation	RG	Reviewer	No	3,5
	HCQCUS	RG	Member, 10th Anniversary Committee	No	5
	HCQCUS	RG	Member, Mental Health Faculty Search Committee	No	5
	Journal of General Internal Medicine	RG	Reviewer	No	3,5
	Medical Care	RG	Reviewer	No	3,5
	MEDVAMC HSR&D	RG	Member, Health Services Research Sub-Committee	Yes	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Team Leader Advisory Committee	Yes	5
	NHLBI	RG	Member, Technical Advisory Panel	No	5
	Robert Wood Johnson	RG	Member, Generalist Scholar National Meeting Planning Committee	No	5
	VA Cardiovascular Center of Excellence	RG	Chair, Research Committee	Yes	5
	VA IHD QUERI	RG	Member, Executive Committee	Yes	2

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
N. Petersen PhD	Congestive Heart Failure Quality Enhancement Research Initiative Executive Committee	EC	Member	Yes	3,5
	American Heart Association	RG	Member, Abstract Selection Committee	No	3,5
	American Heart Association	RG	Member, Peer Review Group	No	3,5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine	No	5
	Journal of General Internal Medicine	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Journal of General Internal Medicine	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Medical Care	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Ad hoc reviewer, Research & Development Committee	Yes	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Ad hoc Reviewer, Health Services Research Sub-Committee	Yes	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Team Leader Advisory Council	Yes	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Professional Development Committee	Yes	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Design Analysis Section, Mentoring and Scientific Review Committee and Professional Development Organization	Yes	5
	The American Journal of Medicine	RG	Reviewer	No	3,4,5
	Quality Enhancement Research Initiative Data Issues Workgroup	VAN	Member	Yes	5
K. Pietz PhD MS BA	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine	No	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Health Services Research Sub-Committee	Yes	5
K. Roundy MD BA	American Geriatric Psychiatric Association	AS	Member, Stepping Stones	No	5
	American Psychiatric Association	AS	Member	No	5
	Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Centers (MIRECC)	RG	Training Resident	Yes	5
Y. Shaib MD MPH	American College of Gastroenterology	AS	Member	No	5
	American Gastroenterology Association	AS	Member	No	5
	American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy	AS	Member	No	5
	MEDVAMC	VAR	Chief of Therapeutic Endoscopy, Digestive Diseases Section	Yes	4,5

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
A. Snow PhD	Mental Health and Aging Informal Interest Group, Gerontological Society of America	AS	Convener	No	3,5
	Psychologists in Long Term Care	AS	Research Chair	No	6
	Journal of Gerontology	EB	Ad-hoc Reviewer	No	3
	Medical Care	EB	Reviewer	No	3,5
	Houston Area Alzheimer's Association	EC	Member, Board of Directors	No	5
	Alzheimer's Association Small Grant Application	RG	Ad-hoc reviewer, Small Grant Application	No	5,6
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine	No	5
	HCQCUS	RG	Member, Medical Sociologist Recruiting Committee	No	5
	HCQCUS	RG	Chair, Psychometrician Recruiting Committee	No	5
	Health Services Resource Association (HRSA)	RG	Invited Reviewer for Graduate Geropsychology Grant Review	No	3,5
	Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry and Neurology	RG	Ad-hoc reviewer	No	6
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Research & Development Committee, Student Research Sub-Committee	Yes	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Representative, Junior Faculty Elected Representative, Team Leader Advisory Committee	Yes	5
	Robert Wood Johnson	RG	Member, Care for Elders Houston Demonstration Project, Quality in Workforce Committee	No	5
	University of Texas School of Nursing-Selenia E. & Joseph C. Valley, Sr. Memorial Gerontological Nursing Fund Center on Aging	RG	Member, Advisory Board	No	5
	Health Science Research and Development	VAN	Abstract reviewer, 19th Annual Meeting	Yes	5
	VA VISN 16 Mental Illness, Research, Education and Clinical Center Pilot Program	VAR	Reviewer	Yes	2,5

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
J. Soucek PhD	American Statistical Association	AS	Member	No	5
	International Biometrics Society (ENAR)	AS	Member	No	5
	International Conference for Health Policy Research sponsored by the American Statistical	AS	Member of the Planning Committee for the Health Policy Statistics Section	No	5
	Society for Clinical Trials	AS	Member	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	EC	Associate Professor, Department of Medicine	No	4
	Annals of Epidemiology	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Journal of Clinical Outcomes Management	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Journal of the American Medical Association	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Data and Safety	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	The American Statistician	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	VA HSR&D	VAR	Statistical mentor for post-doctoral fellows and BCM faculty	Yes	4,5
M. Stanley PhD	American Psychological Association	AS	Member, Fellow	No	5
	American Psychological Association	AS	Member, Site Visitors Pool	No	5
	American Psychological Society	AS	Member	No	5
	Association for Advancement of Behavior Therapy	AS	Member	No	5
	Scientific Advisory Board, Trichotillomania Learning Center	AS	Secretary (1993-1996), Consultant (2003-present)	No	5
	Behavior Therapy	EB	Associate Editor	No	5
	Clinical Psychology Review	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	Cognitive and Behavioral Practice	EB	Co-Editor, Supervision and Training Section	No	5
	Contemporary Psychology	EB	Advisory Editor	No	5
	Journal of Anxiety Disorders	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	Journal of Psychopathology and Behavioral Assessment	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	National Institute of Health	RG	Reviewer, Special Emphasis Panel, Intervention for Schizophrenia and Aging Related	No	5
	National Institute of Mental Health	RG	Reviewer, Treatments for Schizophrenia and Psychotic Disorders	No	5
	National Institute of Mental Health	RG	Member, Special Emphasis Panel, Mental Disorders Treatment Research	No	5
	The Netherlands Organization for Health Research and Development	RG	Reviewer, Health Care Efficiency Research Program	No	5

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
M. Suarez-Almazor MD PhD	American College of	AS	Member	No	6
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Professor, Department of Medicine	No	5
	Canadian Rheumatology Association	AS	Member	No	6
	International Society for Health Technology Assessment	AS	Member	No	6
	Pan-American League Against Rheumatism	AS	Member, Epidemiology Subcommittee	No	5
	Society for Medical Decision	AS	Member	No	5,6
	International League against Rheumatism Pediatrics Task Force	CL	Member	No	5
	OMERACT Health Economics Task Force	CL	Member	No	5
	Arthritis and Rheumatism	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	Arthritis Care and Research	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	Cochrane Collaboration	EB	Editor, Musculoskeletal Review Group	No	3,6
	Journal of Rheumatology	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	Medical Care	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	Michael Smith Foundation	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	Revista Mexicana de	EB	Editorial Committee	No	5
	Rheumatology	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Member, IRB	No	5
	Canadian Institute for Health Research	RG	Reviewer	No	5
	Medical Research Council (Canada)	RG	Reviewer	No	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Health Services Research Sub-Committee	Yes	5
C. Teal PhD MA BA	NIH-NIA	RG	Committee Member, Study Section	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Instructor, Department of Medicine	No	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member and Reviewer, Health Services Research Sub-	Yes	5
P. Willson PhD MSN BSN	Howell Foundation for Nurscing Research in the Texas Medical Center	AS	VA Representative	No	5
	Nurse Leadership Council	AS	Member	No	5
	Policy & Procedure Council	AS	Member	No	5
	Administrative Staff Forum	EC	Member	No	5
	Nurse Executive Council	EC	Member	No	5
	Nursing Research Council	EC	Chair	No	5
	Fall Prevention Committee	RG	Member	No	5
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Research & Development Committee	Yes	5
	Houston VA Research & Education Foundation	VAR	Member	No	6
	Patient Education Committee	VAR	Member	No	4

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
L. Woodard MD MPH	American College of Physicians	AS	Member	No	5
	American Medical Association	AS	Member	No	5
	Society of General Internal	AS	Member	No	5
	Society of General Internal Medicine Planning Committee	AS	Co-Chair Clinical Vignettes Committee	No	5
	Houston VAMC	EC	Staff Physician, General Medicine Consultation Service	Yes	4
	Ethnicity and Disease	RG	Reviewer	No	5
	Journal of General Internal Medicine	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	MEDVAMC, HSR&D	RG	Member, Team Leader Advisory Council	Yes	5
N. Wray MD MPH	American Public Health	AS	Member	No	5
	Association for Health Services Research	AS	Member	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Member, Dept. of Medicine Executive Faculty Committee	No	6
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Member, Faculty Committee on Awards	No	6
	Society of General Internal	AS	Member	No	5
	National Advisory Council for the Agency for Health Care Policy, Research and Evaluation	NB	Member	No	3,5
	Medical Care	RG	Reviewer	No	3

* VHA National Committee (VAN), VA Regional/Network Committee (VAR), Academic Society (AS), Consensus Conference or Clinical Guidelines Development Committee (CL), Study Section or other Research Review Group (RG), Editorial Board (EB), Executive or Advisory Committee for a Research Program or National Study (EC), National Policy Board (NB)

** (1) Setting a VA research agenda, (2) oversight of a VA research product, national policy related to patient care, (3) oversight of a research product with national importance, (4) input to training of VA staff or potential researchers, (5) input to the general area of health services research, (6) national leadership of a clinical and/or academic program.

7 Training Activities

The scope of the Houston Center's training activity has increased significantly over the last years. In addition to the post-doctoral fellowship program, the training mission of the Section includes: MIRECC fellows training, clinical fellows training, pre-doctoral research internships, emphasis on training of and collaboration with minority students and faculty, increased VA and non-VA career development awards and fellowships and institutional training grants, and continued development and implementation of the Houston Center's formal Mentoring Policy, developed in 2002. These efforts are described below. The VA HSR&D post-doctoral program design is the blueprint for many of the other programs, and so will be described at greater length.

OAA-funded Post-doctoral Program

The Center's VA HSR&D post-doctoral training program is designed to create an environment in which post-doctoral fellows can mature into independent health services researchers capable of and interested in pursuing research that will contribute to the ability of the Department of Veterans Affairs to fulfill its health care mission. At the Center, trainees work closely with a mentoring team. This team includes: a primary mentor (an established researcher with common research interests); the education director (to monitor the quality of the mentoring relationships and to serve as a liaison for any mentoring team difficulties); one or two other researchers with methodological or content area expertise important for the trainees' progress; and (if the primary mentor is a junior faculty member) a senior mentor is included to "mentor the mentor" and guide the team regarding big-picture career issues. Post-doctoral fellows are included in all activities of the Center's investigators, in accordance with the fellowship's purpose of producing independent health services researchers. In addition, a bi-weekly Foundations in Health Services Research seminar series provides introductory information on the Center's procedures, the U.S. and VA health care systems, academic medicine and career advancement guidelines, and topics in health services research.

Since 1994, 11 trainees have entered the fellowship program, 8 of which completed at least one year of fellowship training and 2 of which have recently started their first year of fellowship training. Many have had research that was completed during the fellowship period published in refereed journals. Dr. Brian Geisler, who completed his second post-doctoral year in 1995, is currently an assistant research scientist at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis in the School of Medicine. Dr. Jan Mary Hale Risser, who completed a post-doctoral year in 1996, is currently an assistant professor at the University of Texas School of Public Health. Dr. Karon Cook, who finished a post-doctoral year in 1997, is currently associate director for research, Houston VA Parkinsons Disease Research, Education, and Clinical Center, and an active collaborator with the Houston Center. Dr. Makoto Hanita, who finished his second post-doctoral year in 1998, is a research associate at the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory. Dr. Rose Colon, who finished her second post-doctoral year in 1999, is an assistant professor in the department of psychology at Michigan State University. Dr. James Stacks, who completed a year of post-doctoral fellowship in 1999, joined the Center as a research team leader, but had to withdraw soon after due to serious illness. Dr. Julie Aniol, who successfully completed her two-year fellowship in July 2002, attained employment as a workplace consultant, which is consistent with her interests in mental health in the workplace. After 1.25 years of fellowship, in November 2002 Dr. Jessica Davila joined the Center as a research team leader; she was awarded a VA Merit Review Entry Program (MREP) Career Development Award in July 2003. In sum, four of the above fellows were subsequently recruited as Center research team leaders when their fellowships were completed, due to their outstanding performance and the need for the expertise at the Center (Brian Giesler Ph.D., Karon Cook PhD, James Stacks PhD, Jessica Davila PhD).

Jennifer Kramer, PhD, MPH began the HSR&D fellowship in June 2003. She is an epidemiologist with an interest in blood borne infectious diseases, specifically hepatitis C and HIV. During her fellowship Dr. Kramer has had 3 manuscripts accepted for publication (one as first author), has 2 under review (one as first author), and has four in preparations. She has presented her research at two national conferences (she was awarded Poster of Distinction at the Annual Digestive Diseases Week Meeting) and one local conference. She has been awarded a Locally Initiated Project grant by the Center (\$10,000) to study "Use of Linked VA-Medicare Data to Improve Ascertainment of HCV-Related Outcomes." Her plans for the remainder of her fellowship include: writing and submitting a career development award, submitting at least one more first author paper.

Cayla R. Teal, PhD began the HSR&D fellowship in mid-July 2003. She is a community psychologist with research interests in measurement and design issues related to population-based culture influences on instrument development used in the assessment and management of chronic illnesses. During her fellowship Dr. Teal has submitted two manuscripts (one as first author) and has four manuscripts in preparation (two as first author). She participated in a contract with NCI to evaluate five health-related quality of life measures through classic and modern psychometric methods, leading to a national presentation and manuscripts in preparation. She presented her research at two national conferences and one regional conference. She served as a co-investigator for an NIH R21 application to evaluate the psychometric properties, within racial subgroups, of an instrument designed to assess barriers to follow-up of prostate cancer screening. She was named a Kellogg Scholar in Health Disparities, an award that provides for travel and training in health disparities for the next two years (no salary). Finally, she has just been awarded a K01 three-year career development award from the Centers for Disease Control and as of October 1, 2004 has joined the Center as a research team leader.

Other Postdoctoral Training Programs

MIRECC Fellowship

In FY03, the South Central Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Center (MIRECC) was awarded a Special Mental Illness Research Fellowship Program in Advanced Psychology/Psychiatry. This program includes two slots per year (one for a psychologist and one for a psychiatrist) and has a health services research track and a neuroscience track. The Houston Center is proud to support the health services research track by housing those fellows in the Center, providing infrastructure support, and most importantly, providing mentoring support.

Paul Rowan began the MIRECC Special Fellowship in Psychiatry and Psychology in August 2002, and completed the fellowship in August 2003. He has taken a research associate position at M.D. Anderson Cancer Hospital, where he is preparing a career development award. His interest is in the influence of psychiatric comorbidities upon treatment of chronic illness, especially through the collaborative care model. During his fellowship Dr. Rowan published five manuscripts (three as first author) and has four in preparation (all as first author). He led a qualitative study examining the views of patients and providers regarding the HCV treatment disposition process as a Primary Investigator (manuscript in preparation), he was also a co-investigator on a patient self-management study providing a psychoeducational intervention for patients with HCV who are undergoing interferon treatment, and he was a co-investigator on a grant proposal examining factors associated with prostate screening behavior compliance. He presented his research at three national conferences and one local conference. While maintaining these research efforts, he also maintained efforts in clinical training.

David P. Graham, MD, MS started his post-doctoral fellowship in the South Central MIRECC program in July 2003. His research interests include application/validity of dementia

measurement scales in Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), factor analysis of contributors to aggression and agitation in TBI, adverse behavioral outcomes in TBI with persistent cognitive disabilities, and resource discrepancies between need and availability in TBI. During this year he has had three manuscripts accepted and has submitted five manuscripts (two as first author). He has been awarded a Locally Initiated Project grant by the Center (\$10,000) to study "Utilization of Services by Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury." He has presented his research at the annual MIRECC research conference. During his remaining time in the fellowship Dr. Graham will submit at least two more first authored manuscripts and a career development award.

Clinical Fellows

In FY03, the Houston Center participated in the training of two clinical fellows: Dr. Karen Garibaldi and Dr. Jennifer Mayben. Both were funded through a HRSA training grant held by Dr. David Hyman at Baylor College of Medicine. Both fellows are committed to careers as health services researchers. These fellows are participating in all aspects of our post-doctoral training program and are being mentored by Center faculty.

The Center began to provide mentoring to Dr. Garibaldi after her first year of fellowship, and she remained with the Center until she completed her third year of fellowship in July 2004. Her research interests are in the transition of children with chronic conditions from their pediatric to adult health care providers. During the fellowship Dr. Garibaldi completed the requirements for a masters in public health from the University of Texas School of Public Health. She has had one manuscript provisionally accepted as first author and has submitted another as first author. She has presented her research at three national conferences and one local conference. Dr. Garibaldi has taken a position at University of Connecticut that is half-time clinical and half-time research.

Dr. Jennifer Mayben began her fellowship at the Center in July 2004. Her interest is in preventative screening for HIV risk factors in primary health care. She has begun the masters in public health program at the University of Texas School of Public Health program and is conducting a literature review in her area of interest.

Plans to Expand Center Training Activities

Because training is an important priority, the Center plans to continue to submit grant applications to expand its training activities. To this end, the Houston Center has approved an investment in providing Dr. Snow, the education director, with a half-time assistant to aid in researching and writing training grant applications. It is expected this short-term investment will lead to sustained growth for the training program.

Significant Impacts of Training Programs

The Center's OAA-funded and other training programs most significant impact is in training highly skilled independent health services researchers. This research informs both the VA system as a whole and individual health care providers in how health care in the VA can be the best in the country and efficiently provided. The Center's programs are designed to train new investigators whose research will advance knowledge and practice in the determinants of health services use, quality assessment, outcome measures of quality and effectiveness, and patient-centered care. A distinguishing feature of the Center's research is the focus not just upon quality or utilization alone, but upon the relation between quality of care and utilization of health services. Instilling commitment to research that is not only high quality, but also can be used to improve health care for veterans and all people, is a primary objective of the Center's training programs.

7.1 Trainee Listing

Post-Doctoral Fellow Trainee(s) - Houston Center of Excellence

Garibaldi, Karen MD BA - Houston, TX

Fellow Type (original) : **Other**
Project Agency ID(s) Assigned:
Title Of Original Training Program: **OAA MD Postdoctoral Training Program in Health Services Research**
Title Of Dissertation:
Training Start Date: **4 /2002** Training End Date: **7 /2004**
Terminal Degree: **MD** Terminal Degree Date: **5 /1996**
Number of Peer-Reviewed Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **2**
Number of "Other" Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Number of Funded Research Projects as PI or Co-Inv (since initiation of the traineeship): **1**
Post Graduation VA Employment Facility/Site ID: **580** Hospital Name: **Houston VA Medical Center**
Current Employer Name and **Baylor College of Medicine**
Current Employment Position Title: **Post-Doctoral Fellow Trainee**

Post-Doctoral Fellow Trainee(s) - Houston Center of Excellence

Graham, David MD MS BS - Houston, TX

Fellow Type (original) : **Other**
Project Agency ID(s) Assigned:
Title Of Original Training Program: **OAA MD Postdoctoral Training Program in Health Services Research**
Title Of Dissertation:
Training Start Date: **1 /2003** Training End Date: **8 /2005**
Terminal Degree: **MD** Terminal Degree Date: **5 /1999**
Number of Peer-Reviewed Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **3**
Number of "Other" Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Number of Funded Research Projects as PI or Co-Inv (since initiation of the traineeship): **1**
Post Graduation VA Employment Facility/Site ID: **580** Hospital Name: **Houston VA Medical Center**
Current Employer Name and **Houston VA Medical Center**
Current Employment Position Title: **Post-Doctoral Fellow Trainee**

Post-Doctoral Fellow Trainee(s) - Houston Center of Excellence

Kramer, Jennifer PhD MPH BA - Houston, TX

Fellow Type (original) : **OAA**
Project Agency ID(s) Assigned:
Title Of Original Training Program: **OAA PhD Postdoctoral Training Program in Health Services Research**
Title Of Dissertation: **The effect of HIV dual infection on the progression of HCV morbidity and overall mortality in US veterans**
Training Start Date: **6 /2003** Training End Date: **6 /2005**
Terminal Degree: **PhD** Terminal Degree Date: **5 /2003**
Number of Peer-Reviewed Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **3**
Number of "Other" Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Number of Funded Research Projects as PI or Co-Inv (since initiation of the traineeship): **1**
Post Graduation VA Employment Facility/Site ID: **580** Hospital Name: **Houston VA Medical Center**
Current Employer Name and **Health Services Research & Development**
Current Employment Position Title: **Trainee**

Post-Doctoral Fellow Trainee(s) - Houston Center of Excellence

Roundy, Kent MD BA - Houston, TX

Fellow Type (original) : **Other**

Project Agency ID(s) Assigned:

Title Of Original Training Program: **OAA PhD Postdoctoral Training Program in Health Services Research**

Title Of Dissertation:

Training Start Date: **7 /2003** Training End Date: **3 /2005**

Terminal Degree: **MD** Terminal Degree Date: **5 /2001**

Number of Peer-Reviewed Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **1**

Number of "Other" Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**

Number of Funded Research Projects as PI or Co-Inv (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**

Post Graduation VA Employment Facility/Site ID: **580** Hospital Name: **Houston VA Medical Center**

Current Employer Name and **Baylor College of Medicine**

Current Employment Position Title: **Resident**

Honor(s) or Award(s) Prior to Initiation of VA Training ?

Certificate of Merit in International Studies, West Georgia College	No
Friend of Nursing Award, VAMC, Salt Lake City, UT	No
General Sterling Scholar, Cedar City High School, Cedar City, UT	No
Gordon Watson Award, West Georgia College	No
Honors in Biochemistry, Cardiology and Dermatology Organ Systems, U of U Medical School	No
Janssen Psychiatry Resident Award of Excellence Recipient	No
Outstanding Academic Achievement Award from Phi Sigma Iota, West Georgia College	No
Personal Employee Recognition of Quality, VAMC, Salt Lake City, UT	No
Resident Teacher Award, BCM, Department of Psychiatry	No
Superior Performance Award, VAMC, Salt Lake City, UT	No
Training Residents in Psychiatry Scholarship Fellow	No

Residency(ies)

Residency Description: **Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Centers**

Residency Specialty: **Psychiatry**

Residency Institution: **Baylor College of Medicine**

Residency Prior to Initiation of VA Training ? **No**

Degree(s)

Degree: **BA**

Major Fields of Study: **Biology**

Degree Awarded Date: **6 /1994** Degree Prior to initiation of VA Training ? **Yes**

University or Academic Institution: **University of Utah, SLC, UT**

Department(s) Awarding Degree:

Degree: **MD**

Major Fields of Study: **Medicine**

Degree Awarded Date: **5 /2001** Degree Prior to initiation of VA Training ? **Yes**

University or Academic Institution: **University of Utah Medical School, SLC, UT**

Department(s) Awarding Degree:

Post-Doctoral Fellow Trainee(s) - Houston Center of Excellence

Rowan, Paul PhD MPH M Ed - Houston, TX

Fellow Type (original) : **Other**
Project Agency ID(s) Assigned:
Title Of Original Training Program: **OAA PhD Postdoctoral Training Program in Health Services Research**
Title Of Dissertation: **Depression as a Predictor of Ischemic Heart Disease**
Training Start Date: **8 /2002** Training End Date: **8 /2004**
Terminal Degree: **PhD** Terminal Degree Date: **8 /2002**
Number of Peer-Reviewed Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **5**
Number of "Other" Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Number of Funded Research Projects as PI or Co-Inv (since initiation of the traineeship): **1**
Post Graduation VA Employment Facility/Site ID: **580** Hospital Name: **Houston VA Medical Center**
Current Employer Name and **VA Medical Center, Houston, TX**
Current Employment Position Title: **MIRECC Special Fellowship in Psychiatry and Psychology**

Post-Doctoral Fellow Trainee(s) - Houston Center of Excellence

Teal, Cayla PhD MA BA - Houston, TX

Fellow Type (original) : **OAA**
Project Agency ID(s) Assigned:
Title Of Original Training Program: **OAA PhD Postdoctoral Training Program in Health Services Research**
Title Of Dissertation: **Evaluating Students' Perceptions of Instruction in the Experiential Course: The Development of the ESPTE**

Training Start Date: **7 /2003** Training End Date: **9 /2004**
Terminal Degree: **PhD** Terminal Degree Date: **3 /2003**
Number of Peer-Reviewed Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Number of "Other" Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Number of Funded Research Projects as PI or Co-Inv (since initiation of the traineeship): **2**
Post Graduation VA Employment Facility/Site ID: **580** Hospital Name: **Houston VA Medical Center**

Current Employer Name and **Health Services Research & Development**
Current Employment Position Title: **Post-Doctoral Fellow Trainee**

Honor(s) or Award(s) Prior to Initiation of VA Training ?
Golden Key Graduate Teaching Assistant Teaching Award **Yes**
John Powell Scholarship **Yes**
Kellogg Scholar in Health Disparities **No**
Outstanding Master's Student **Yes**

Degree(s)
Degree: **PhD**
Major Fields of Study: **Psychology**
Degree Awarded Date: **3 /2003** Degree Prior to initiation of VA Training ? **Yes**
University or Academic Institution: **Wichita State University, Wichita, KS**
Department(s) Awarding Degree: **Psychology Department**

Degree: **MA**
Major Fields of Study: **Community Psychology**
Degree Awarded Date: **5 /1996** Degree Prior to initiation of VA Training ? **Yes**
University or Academic Institution: **Wichita State University, Wichita, KS**
Department(s) Awarding Degree: **Psychology Department**